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Toll may rise to 200 : 500 injured Train plunges into lake in Kerala, 100 die

COCHIN, India, July 8, (Agencies): Divers were working through the night to free bodies trapped inside a train which plunged into a lake in Kerala, south India killing up to 100 people and injuring 500 today, railway sources said.

At least 80 bodies, including 18 women and five children, have been recovered from the express train which left the rails and plunged into a monsoon-swollen lake near the town of Quilon in Kerala state, the sources said.

Submerged

They said the death toll could climb, and unofficial reports estimated the final figure at 200. Most of the bodies recovered so far were from two partially-submerged carriages, railway sources said.

Divers were now trying to retrieve bodies from other carriages submerged in more

than 15 metres (45 feet) of water. Divers flown by helicopter from a naval base in Cochin, 100 km (60 miles) north of Quilon, were using cutting gear to open a first-class compartment with at least 50 passengers locked inside. Railway sources said they did not know why the carriage doors were locked.

Fifteen passengers in another first-class compartment jumped from the train as it plunged into the lake, the railway sources said.

Injured

The sources said 25 of the casualties were seriously injured in the accident which occurred at 1.10 pm (0740 GMT).

They quoted a passenger as saying the driver suddenly applied the brakes just before the train left the track.

Dr Thomas Verghese, deputy director of Quilon district hospital, had said that at least 200 people were unaccounted for before the casualty list was

updated, with some of the missing found dead.

Some 500 people who were injured were taken to a hospital in the town of Quilon, 10 kilometres (six miles) from the crash site in Kerala state, officials at the hospital said.

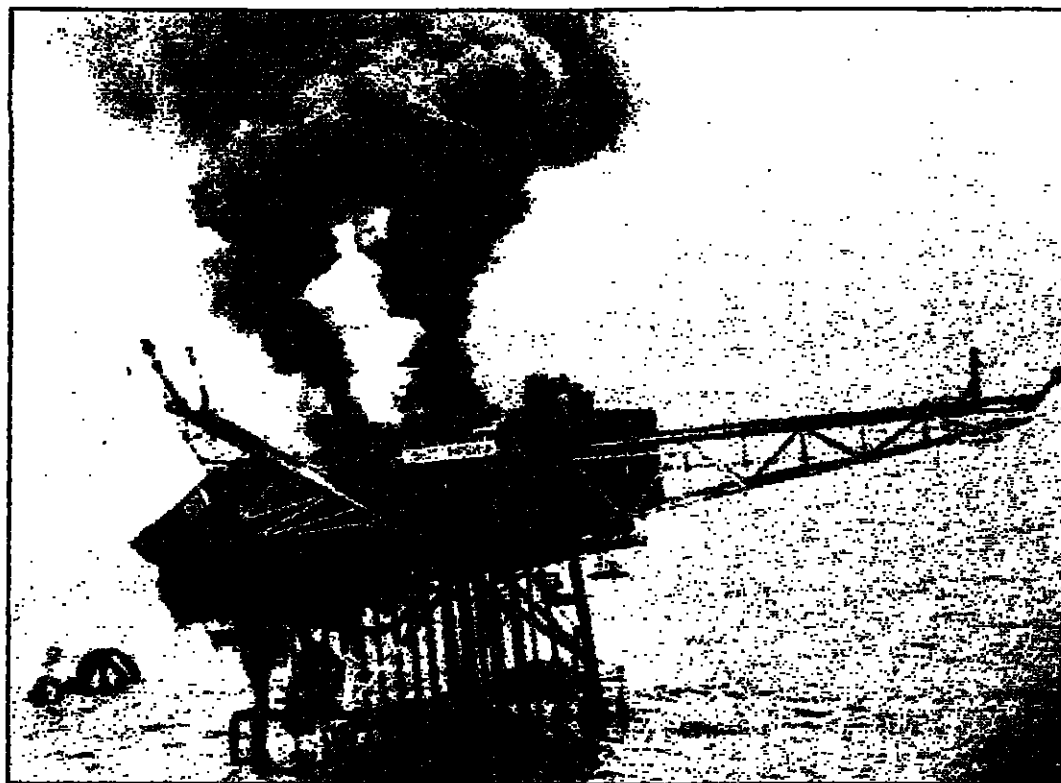
Seventy-five victims were admitted; 25 others in serious condition were rushed by ambulance to a larger hospital in the Kerala capital of Trivandrum, and the rest were treated and released, officials said.

The accident occurred when the 14-car Island Express derailed near Quilon, 50 kilometres (30 miles) from Trivandrum about 1:15 pm (0745 GMT), police in Quilon said.

Chief constable Vellu Kutty said the dead included 60 men, 20 women and five children.

Three passenger cars sank in water 20 to 30 feet (six to nine metres) deep, said I.K. Chari, a

(Continued on Page 2)



The oil rig Piper Alpha burns off the Scottish coast. (Reuter wirephoto)

17 bodies found, hopes fade for 149 still missing

166 believed killed in North Sea disaster

ABERDEEN, Scotland, July 8, (Agencies): Rescuers said today they had abandoned hope of finding survivors among 149 men missing after an oil rig blew up in the oil industry's worst such disaster ever.

With 64 survivors and 17 bodies recovered, officials said the death toll was likely to reach 166.

"We of course gave up any chance of finding anyone else alive, most regrettably, at sunset last night," 24 hours after the disaster, Aberdeen search and rescue region commander Derek Ancona told the British Broadcasting Corp.

Resigned

US oil troubleshooter Paul "Red" Adair was summoned to help douse the fire flickering in the devastated North Sea hulk and to seal leaks that the Coast Guard said were still causing sporadic explosions of gas bubbling to the ocean surface.

Police said the only non-British survivor was Eric Roland Paul Brannan from Rangon, France who was in serious condition at the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. An incomplete list of the dead and missing included only one foreigner, Jurgen Tilo

Stwerka, of Hessen, West Germany.

Meanwhile, some 120 workers on British Petroleum's West Sole gas platform resigned collectively today, saying they were concerned about safety in the high-risk North Sea oil and gas industry.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher flew today to Aberdeen, capital of the Scottish oil industry, to console the bereaved and visit many of the injured whom she said were displaying "great inner strength." Prince Charles and Princess Dianna were expected in the early evening.

Aid

Armand Hammer, the 90-year-old chairman of the US Occidental Petroleum, which owns the rig, flew in from Los Angeles, landing at Aberdeen's airport where flags were at half-staff. He conferred with company heads in Aberdeen before going to visit injured survivors at the Royal Infirmary.

"From what the doctors tell me it looks like they are all going to survive... which I think is tremendous considering the terrible disaster and the fact these

men jumped into the water," he said.

He told reporters the company was donating £1 million (\$1.7 million) to a trust fund set up for the injured and families of the bereaved. Mrs Thatcher announced that the government was also donating £1 million. In Brussels, the European Economic Community said it was donating £560,000 (\$952,000) in emergency aid and would discuss with the British government how to use the money.

Only 37 of those on the rig were directly employed by Occidental. Hammer said the six who survived, and the families of the 31 who died, would get compensation settlements worth about £100,000 (\$170,000) each, plus lifetime pensions.

Hammer said Occidental would fix compensation for the other employees, who worked for 25 different contractors, after studying their insurance arrangements.

Energy Secretary Cecil Parkinson said a public inquiry into the disaster, to be held in Aberdeen, would be headed by "an eminent Scottish legal figure" who would be named shortly.

(Continued on Page 2)

US sale of F-18s to Kuwait

Senate expunges Maverick missiles from arms deal

WASHINGTON, July 8, (Reuters): The Senate has voted to eliminate air-to-ground Maverick missiles from a proposed \$1.9-billion US sale of weapons to Kuwait.

The ban was proposed by a group of Senators as an amendment to a foreign aid appropriations bill and approved by voice vote after virtually no debate. The bill was later approved and will have to be reconciled with a House of Representatives version that does not include the Maverick ban.

The administration presented to Congress on Thursday the proposal to sell 40 F-18 fighters and a variety of missiles to Kuwait and defended the sale by saying the Gulf nation needed the arms to meet threats from Iraq, Iran and sea.

Proposal

The sale is opposed by some members of Congress who fear a threat to Israel and proliferation of sophisticated weapons in the Gulf. The proposal was disclosed informally last month.

Deputy Assistant Defence Secretary Edward Gnehm told members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee the sale included Maverick "G", which has a 300-pound warhead and had not been sold previously to foreign customers, as well as the older 125-pound-warhead Maverick "D". Members of Congress said the sale included 200 "D" and 100 "G" versions.

Senate opponents of the sale, led by Democrat Dennis DeConcini of Arizona and Republican Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, said the Mavericks were unique heat-seeking missiles that had previously been excluded from a Saudi arms sale but had been sold to Bahrain and Egypt.

Specter said that before the missile was sold to an Arab nation it should renounce force and recognise Israel's right to exist.

Gnehm said Kuwait would probably buy British, or French or even Soviet aircraft if it could not buy US F-18s.

Submission of the Kuwait arms package to Congress came amid new tensions in the Gulf following the downing of an

Iranian airliner on Sunday by the US cruiser Vincennes, with the loss of 290 lives.

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Peter Burleigh said Kuwait's request "is a fundamental part of Kuwait's programme to upgrade its deterrent capability into the next century."

He said Kuwait had been the victim of "Iranian-sponsored terrorism" and repeated attacks by Iran on its territory and commercial interests. Kuwait backs Iraq in the Gulf war with Iran.

Reassure

"Kuwait faces current or future threats from air, land and sea from more than one direction," Burleigh said.

He said Kuwait has chosen a policy of balance and neutrality in the region and that it was in US long-term interests to have moderate nations such as Kuwait play a more active role in the Gulf.

In addition to the F-18s and Maverick missiles the package includes Harpoon air-to-sea missiles, Sparrow and Sidewinder air-to-air missiles, laser-guided bombs and cluster bombs. Burleigh sought to reassure members of Congress that the package would pose no threat to Israel, saying that the F-18s lacked the range to strike the Jewish state and would not be based in any other country.

The Kuwaiti request, he said, was a strong indication of the growing relationship between Kuwait and the United States.

Package

Democrat Lawrence Smith of Florida, opposing the proposed sale, said such an arms package should be sold "only to those allies who have a full record of proven co-operation with the United States — criteria the Kuwaitis surely would not satisfy."

An aide said Smith would introduce a resolution disapproving the sale. In order to thwart the sale such a resolution would have to be approved by the House and the Senate and a probable presidential veto would have to be overridden by a two-thirds majority in each chamber.

10 deported

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, July 8, (AP): The Israeli Army today ordered 10 Palestinian activists deported from the disputed lands.

The expulsions appeared to be in retaliation for today's Palestinian attack in Gaza city's central prison. (See also Page 2)

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بھارت میں ریلوے کا
الٹا کارڈ

برطانیہ میں آئل رگ
دھماکہ سے تباہ

برطانیہ اور سعودی عرب
میں اٹل کاسا

اٹل کاسا اب قریب ہیں
صدر ریاض

افغانستان میں دھماکہ
ضیاء کی تاجروں کو زخم مرید

کی تین دہائی
لاہور تانہ اور رویت

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Two tankers set ablaze in Gulf

MANAMA, July 8, (Agencies): Two supertankers, one Greek and one Cypriot, were ablaze after Iraq announced its warplanes raided three "maritime targets" off Iran overnight, shipping executives said today. Iran also attacked a Romanian ship yesterday.

The Gulf-based executives identified the two vessels attacked by Iraq as the 264,108-ton Fellowship L and Cypriot 215,780-ton Star Ray.

They said both were on charter to the Iranians to shuttle oil from the key Kharg island oil terminal at the head of the waterway to the export terminal in the Strait of

Hormuz.

The London-based Lloyd's Shipping Intelligence unit, which monitors maritime traffic around the world, said the bridge and crew quarters of each vessel were set on fire in the attacks.

Iraq jets then struck the Star Ray as it steamed from Kharg island to Larak island, also in the northern Gulf, and set it on fire.

A lone Iranian gunboat attacked a Romanian cargo ship in the northern Gulf yesterday, shipping sources said.

They said the captain of the 8,750-tonne vessel Plataresti was injured in the attack near Iran's Farsi island.

US may offer reparations

Iranian plane was within prescribed air corridor

WASHINGTON, July 8, (Agencies): The Defence Department acknowledged yesterday that an Iranian A-300 Airbus shot down by a US warship was within a corridor for commercial airliners, but it said that alone did not guarantee the plane's safety.

Meanwhile, the US is considering to offer reparations with the White House saying the country will not shirk its moral responsibility.

Exchange

"An airway is not a safety zone," said chief Pentagon spokesman Don Howard. "It doesn't mean that everything inside there is a safe aircraft, that it's all commercial traffic... all this means is that within that zone, within that area, the air traffic control authorities have agreed to track aircraft..."

The fact that the airliner was in a civilian air corridor did not rule out the possibility in the mind of

the skipper of the USS Vincennes, Capt. Will C. Rogers III, that he faced an attacking F-14 fighter, Howard added.

The spokesman said that Iran must share some responsibility for the deaths of the plane's 290 passengers and crew because the Airbus took off from a military-civilian airport at Bandar Abbas during an exchange of fire between the Vincennes and Iranian Boghammar gunboats.

"The Iranians are the ones who bear the responsibility for ensuring that if they are the ones who provoke the hostilities, they are the ones who began the shooting in this incident, that they ensure the safety of their civilian aircraft by not sending them into harm's way," Howard said.

Howard said that computer tapes from the Vincennes were under study by Navy experts and would determine if the airliner

was actually sending an electronic signal which identified it as an F-14, as the Pentagon says.

The Pentagon says the aircraft, was sending two types of identification signals — one used strictly by military jets and another by both military and civilian aircraft.

Data

US military investigators analysed data from Vincennes and two other warships yesterday.

The Vincennes was anchored at Bahrain along with the frigate Elmer Montgomery and the missile frigate John H. Sides. Both frigates had been in the Strait of Hormuz when the Iran Air A-300 Airbus was destroyed last Sunday.

A spokesman for President Reagan said in Washington, the US is moving closer to a decision on offering reparations for the

(Continued on Page 2)

Tehran rejects violent retaliation

DUBAI, July 8, (Agencies): Tehran's military chief today rejected violent retaliation against the United States for shooting down an Iranian airliner.

In Tehran and Abu Dhabi, weeping mourners demanded revenge for the deaths of 290 people aboard the Iranian Airbus, shot down by the American cruiser Vincennes over the Gulf on Sunday.

But Iran's military chief Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, speaking as thousands chanted "Death to America" and "Death to Reagan," told Friday prayers worshippers at Tehran University there would be no violent response against the United States.

Warning such a course would turn world opinion against Iran, he said the place for revenge was on the warfront with Iraq.

"The United States is trying to push us into committing a crime as bad as the attack on the Airbus," he said. "We are trying not to do that."

Rafsanjani said he had heard a report that the American people appeared to be accepting Washington's explanation that the downing of the plane was justified according to the information available to the captain

(Continued on Page 2)

'Fry and die, or jump and try'

ABERDEEN, Scotland, July 8, (Reuters): Oil workers died more than 200 feet (60 metres) into the North Sea to escape flames which engulfed their drilling platform.

"It was a case of fry and die, or jump and try," said Roy Carey yesterday. He told reporters he kept himself alive by thinking of his wife and family until rescuers plucked him from a sea full of debris and other desperate survivors.

Specialists were flown to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary to carry out skin grafts on the severely burnt.

Carey, 45, his eyes closed by burns and his arm in a sling, described from his hospital bed how he had to jump when smoke on the Occidental Petroleum platform became so thick that he could no longer see or breathe.

"I didn't have time to think it over. There was clear water below me so I just went straight through the railing. I didn't have time to go over it," Carey said.

New radar for Kuwait

PARIS, July 8, (KUNA): Kuwait will soon receive a new radar system from the US to monitor aircraft flying at low altitude, Western sources were quoted here today.

The Arabic weekly Al-Moharir, said Kuwait has signed a \$24 million agreement with the Westinghouse Corporation to acquire the low altitude surveillance radar LAS.

Japan to provide navigation systems

TOKYO, July 8, (AP): Japan will give 670 million yen (\$5.1 million) in emergency aid to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for navigational systems to guide ships through the war-torn Gulf, the Foreign Ministry said today.

A statement said 382 million yen (\$2.9 million) in grants would go to Saudi Arabia to install the system, which will monitor closely the location of vessels plying the Gulf. Another 290 million yen (\$2.2 million) will be given to Kuwait for a similar system, the statement said.

"Under the strained situation in the wake of the Iran-Iraq war... it is becoming an imminent issue to ensure the safety of navigation of shipping from the humanitarian standpoint and for

the stability in the region," the statement said.

The announcement partially fulfils a pledge made last October, when Japan agreed to contribute a \$10-million navigation system to help the United States protect shipping in the Gulf.

Today's decision followed consultations with members of the GCC.

Similar navigation systems will be set up with Japanese aid in other council states, local news reports said.

In addition to today's development, Japan agreed last year to provide low-interest loans totalling \$300 million to Jordan and \$200 million to Oman to help maintain peace in the region.

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INTERNATIONAL

Palestinian assailant held in Gaza

Four Israeli jailers stabbed

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, July 8. (AP) A Palestinian claiming to be on a visit to jailed relatives in the occupied Gaza Strip brandished a knife and stabbed four Israeli jailers today, hospital officials and Israel Radio said.

Troops arrested the Arab assailant after a chase outside the Gaza central prison. He is believed to be a member of the underground fundamentalist Islamic Jihad, security sources and Israel Radio said.

The radio said the assailant carried two knives and the attack appeared to have been plotted in advance.

Reinforcements

In the occupied West Bank city of Nablus, troops wounded two Palestinian youths in a clash with demonstrators who hurled rocks and empty bottles at them in the city's open-air market, hospital officials and Arab witnesses said.

Police and soldiers, meanwhile, barred Palestinians from the occupied territories from entering Jerusalem in an effort to prevent violent protests called for by underground leaders during Friday prayers at the Al Aqsa Mosque.

The leaders called for a "day of confrontation" at the mosque, one of the holiest sites of Islam, and police poured hundreds of reinforcements into Jerusalem, doubling the city's normal police force.

In Gaza city, four Israeli prison guards were stabbed by a Palestinian assailant in the city's central prison during visiting hours, said Ilana Ziv, a spokeswoman at Barzilai Hospital in Ashkelon.

Strike

"Somebody came to visit his family in the prison and he attacked the guards with a knife," Ms Ziv told the Associated Press.

She said two jailers were rushed to the hospital by helicopter and one was in serious condition with stab wounds to the heart. Israel Radio said two others were taken to Tel Aviv's Tel Hashomer Hospital where one was in moderate condition and the other lightly wounded.

In Nablus, Palestinians heeded a general strike called for by underground leaders, blocking roads with rocks, burning tires and ordering merchants to

close their shops, Arab reporters said.

Israeli troops opened fire on the protesters, wounding 17-year-old Saed Atallah in the right thigh and Mohammed Abdul Karim, 22, in the right leg, Al Ittihad Hospital officials said. The Army said it was investigating the reported casualties.

Observance of the general strike was viewed as a test of strength between rival Palestinian groups vying for leadership in the occupied territories.

Two groups identifying themselves as the United National Leadership of the Uprising issued conflicting leaflets. One called for a weeklong general strike beginning Friday, while the other ordered two days of strikes on Saturday and Sunday.

Flags

The Islamic fundamentalists also issued a leaflet calling for a weeklong strike beginning Friday.

In Bethlehem and Ramallah, demonstrators threatened shopkeepers who opened their stores. One witness in Ramallah told the AP he heard masked youths telling merchants: "Close

or we will burn you down."

In Gaza city, transportation and commerce were halted. Palestinian youths burned tires, set up roadblocks and hung dozens of outlawed Palestinian flags from electricity poles, Arab reports said.

Also today, the Army erected roadblocks at the entrances to Jerusalem barring Palestinians from entering the city.

An AP reporter saw four roadblocks on a seven-kilometre stretch of road between the occupied West Bank town of Bethlehem and the southern outskirts of Jerusalem.

On one roadblock, security forces hung a sign which said in Arabic: "It is forbidden to enter Jerusalem."

Troops turned back all West Bank cars and hundreds of vehicles were backed up at the checkpoints.

An Army spokeswoman declined comment on the roadblocks, saying only that "the Army is taking all necessary measures to help the police maintain public order in Jerusalem."

A police spokesman said hundreds of extra police were on duty to maintain order in Jerusalem.



Passers-by view a crushed car after a building collapsed in Brownsville, Texas. (Reuter wirephoto)

UK should part ways with US for Iran ties

NICOSIA, July 8. (Reuter) Iran said on Thursday its relations with Britain could improve if London stopped following the US line on the Iran-Iraq war.

A spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry, quoted by the Iranian news agency IRNA, said no significant improvement in relations was conceivable while the British government held the same stance as Washington on the downing of an Iranian passenger plane carrying 290 people by a US warship.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in a statement on Sunday regretted the loss of life but endorsed the US version of events and upheld the right of American forces to self-defence.

Iran and Britain reached final agreement on Wednesday over payment of compensation for repair of their embassies in London and Tehran, both damaged in disturbances several years ago.

Britain will pay Iran about £1.8 million (\$3.07 million) while Tehran will pay the equivalent of \$1.68 million in rials.

The Iranian spokesman said the agreement could help remove other problems in the way of normalised relations.

But a basic change in relations "would depend on Britain's decision to adopt an independent policy towards the Islamic Republic and avoid following US policies on the war and other regional issues," he said.

Iranian leaders have announced a new foreign policy approach to win more friends around the world. Parliamentary speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said on July 2 it was wrong to "constantly make enemies."

Relations between Iran and Britain chilled a year ago after a series of diplomatic expulsions and withdrawals touched off by the arrest of an Iranian consular official in Manchester accused of shoplifting.

9 die as store roof collapses in Texas

BROWNSVILLE, Texas, July 8. (AP) Workers searching for people feared trapped amid tons of steel and concrete today rescued a woman who had been pinned for 15 hours after a department store collapsed. At least nine people were killed and 43 injured.

Hundreds of onlookers cheered as the woman was carried from the huge pile of rubble and taken to a first aid station across the street. Authorities were unable to immediately give her name or condition.

Another woman and two children remained trapped, police spokesman Sgt. Dean Poos said. "They were able to get close enough to touch them (the survivors), give them some fluids... but they were not able to pull them out," Poos said.

Storm

Labouring under portable floodlights early today, rescuers with dogs and sensitive microphones worked through the night to reach the survivors, Poos said.

Hundreds of rescuers working through the night removed debris with tractors, a crane and finally by hand, fearful of further

injury among trapped survivors. "It looks real bad," Cameron county sheriff Alex Perez said. "It's a disaster. It was just like a bomb hit that corner store there."

The three-storey La Tienda Amigo, known as Amigo Store, collapsed Thursday afternoon during a storm that dumped more than 5 centimetres of rain in less than 30 minutes. Some witnesses said as many as 125 people sought shelter inside the downtown building before it crumbled, but Poos said only about 50 had been inside.

The store was half a block from the international bridge across the Rio Grande River to Mexico. When the storm began, a large number of Mexican nationals "were running there to get out of the rain. The store was packed," sheriff's Lt. Johnny Castillo said.

A woman sitting in a car in front of the store was among those killed when the roof and walls collapsed.

Rescuers cut through a wall inside an adjacent store to reach some of those trapped. Linens and clothing blown from the store by high winds were used to wrap the wounds of the injured.

Bodies of S. Koreans arrive

SEOUL, July 8. (AP) The bodies of 12 South Korean workers killed during an Iraqi air raid on an Iranian gas refinery construction site last week, arrived in Seoul today.

Scores of grieving family members were waiting when the bodies, along with 74 workers who survived the air attack, arrived at Kimpo airport aboard a special plane.

Many wives of the victims, clad in traditional Korean white mourning clothes, wept loudly as the caskets were carried off the plane. Some were overcome by emotion and collapsed.

Twelve South Korean workers were killed and more than 40 others were wounded when Iraqi fighters launched a rocket attack on a gas refinery construction site at the Iranian city of Kangan

on the Gulf coast last Thursday. Daelim Industrial Co., which employed the workers, said the air raid was carried out without any advance warning but local news reports, quoting some of the workers, said the company had ignored two air raid sirens before the attack.

At the airport, some angry workers assaulted Daelim executives, charging the company with treating them "inhumanly."

"I feel angry because the company always ignored air raid sirens," the reports quoted one worker as saying.

The reports said the workers were asked not to leave their jobs even in the case of an air raid. Workers who ignored the warning had their allowances reduced, they said.

Iranian plane was within....

(Continued from Page 1) destruction of the Iran Air flight 655.

"I suspect that doing what we think is right will be the deciding factor," said Martin Fitzwater.

Fitzwater's comments yesterday marked a significant change in the tone of administration pronouncements after several days of non-committal responses on the issue of reparations for families of the 290 victims.

"One of the driving forces behind our consideration is simply the moral responsibility of America and the fact that we've always been a humane nation that takes these kinds of problems very seriously and

assumes personal responsibilities," he said.

Fitzwater stressed that no decision on reparations has been made either by senior staff or Reagan. But in contrast to his suggestion earlier this week that the decision will await the outcome of the Navy's investigation of the incident, Fitzwater said he wanted to emphasize that "we're moving along through the consideration process."

UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar yesterday disputed President Reagan's assertion that the downing of an Iranian aircraft was a closed issue.

"It is not for one side to decide whether the question is closed," Perez de Cuellar told a news conference after talks with Swedish

Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson, in Stockholm.

The UN chief called the incident an accident and said he believed Tehran would refrain from retaliatory measures.

A senior Iranian official admitted that the pilot of the Iranian airliner may have failed to pay attention to warnings, an Austrian daily reported yesterday.

In an interview with the Vienna daily Kurier, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larjani said: "We all know that the captain of a plane does not listen to wireless communications during the first ten minutes as he is busy enough with many things in the cockpit."

"Revenge is a bloody act, like terrorism... we are hoping for UN action."

President Ali Khamenei, in a contradictory tone, said Iran retained "the right to retaliate in whatever form and whenever we deem the time right."

Iran Air to take a new route

ABU DHABI, July 8. (AP) Iran Air will take a circuitous route from Bandar Abbas to Dubai until the direct one becomes safe for civilian air traffic, a newspaper reported today.

The new route is aimed at avoiding the corridor used by the ill-fated Iranian Airbus said the report published in the Dubai-based English-language newspaper Khaleej Times.

The paper quoted Iranian sources in Bandar Abbas as saying the new route, adopted since the airline resumed flights after a three-day suspension, takes the aircraft to Shiraz, about 300 miles (about 500 kilometres) to the east. It then doubles back to Dubai, making the previously short 28-minute hop 32 minutes longer.

The sources which the paper did not identify said new flight plans were to be finalised at a meeting between airline officials and the Iranian Air Force.

Train plunges into lake

(Continued from Page 1)

spokesman for the Indian Railways Ministry. Three other cars were partly submerged, he said.

He said the engine, the second car and several other cars remained on the tracks.

Officials in New Delhi said the bridge caved in as the train drove across the Ashtamudi lake.

Navy helicopters flew divers to the accident site to help free survivors trapped inside the six cars in the lake.

Rescue workers also sought to help passengers still inside the three cars dangling from the bridge, the officials reported. Firemen from several towns were sent to help cut through the carriages.

They said about 50 trapped people had been extracted and were sent along with 150 other passengers to hospitals for treatment of various injuries.

A Railways official said two of the completely submerged cars were for passengers riding in the "unreserved" second class section. Such cars usually are crowded with far more occupants than the capacity of 75 people per car.

The derailment occurred during the monsoon season, and the heavy rain in Kerala is reported to be the severest in years.

UNT said the south-bound train derailed as it was crossing a bridge spanning Ashtamudi Lake en route from Bangalore, the capital of neighbouring Karnataka state, to Trivandrum.

Tehran rejects violent...

(Continued from Page 1)

of the cruiser.

"If this report is true, there is no more hope for the people of America," he said. "We could say that the American people are not human anymore."

"How can America give an answer to the world for this great crime?" He asked rhetorically, describing it also as "one of the strangest incidents in the world."

Polls this week showed 71 per cent of Americans believed the attack was justified.

In Rome, Iranian deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larjani also said yesterday his country sought UN action rather than revenge.

Speaking after a 90-minute meeting with Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, Larjani said: "The problem is not over reprisals or vengeance but over the establishment of blame."

"Revenge is a bloody act, like terrorism... we are hoping for UN action."

President Ali Khamenei, in a contradictory tone, said Iran retained "the right to retaliate in whatever form and whenever we deem the time right."

166 believed killed...

(Continued from Page 1)

Some 30 ships, 15 helicopters and a Royal Air Force reconnaissance plane searched for survivors yesterday. The search resumed at daybreak today with only six ships, one mobile rig and one helicopter participating, the Coast Guard said.

Chief constable Alistair Lynn, head of the region's police force, said there was practically no hope of finding more survivors.

A joint statement issued by Occidental spokesman David Mathys in London and police in Aberdeen today said: "In all, 230 personnel were involved in the incident. This was made up of 227 on Occidental facilities and three in a small rescue boat. Seventeen bodies have been recovered. Total survivors to date are 64, and 149 are unaccounted for."

Three killed in N. Ireland violence

BELFAST, July 8. (AP) Guerrillas killed two civilians and a soldier in a series of bomb and mortar attacks in Northern Ireland last night and early today, police said.

The body of a man was found this morning in a field alongside a tractor and trailer used in one of the mortar attacks on a police station at Pomeroy in county Tyrone, police said.

Six civilians suffered minor injuries and 80 families were evacuated when a second mortar attack aimed at the police in Stewartstown, about 16 kilometres away, went astray and damaged a primary school and several houses, police said.

Bomb

No group claimed responsibility for the attacks. But police blamed the outlawed Irish Republican Army, which has targeted the security forces in its fight to end British rule in Northern Ireland and unite the mainly Protestant province with the overwhelmingly Roman Catholic Irish Republic.

In the first incident Thursday evening, police said, a bomb planted against the inside wall of an indoor public swimming pool building in West Belfast killed a man and a woman and injured four other civilians.

The bomb exploded after armed and masked men ordered staff and members of the public out of the swimming pool.

Strike continues in Armenian capital

Troops withdrawn from Yerevan

MOSCOW, July 8. (Reuter) Troops and tanks have been pulled out of Yerevan but local sources said a strike in the capital of Soviet Armenia was still going on and the press reported similar stoppages elsewhere in the republic.

A journalist of the Armenian news agency Armenpress told Reuters by telephone from Yerevan that the troops, who were sent in with tanks and armoured personnel carriers to quell clashes earlier in the week, were pulled out on Thursday.

"There have been no troops in the city since yesterday morning," the journalist said. He also denied reports that a curfew had been placed on Yerevan.

But he said the strike, called on Monday to protest over the disputed Azerbaijani territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, was still going on, although public transport was now running for the first time in four days.

On Thursday evening, the government newspaper Izvestia reported that the strike had spread across Armenia.

"Across the territory of the entire republic, a considerable part, if not the majority, of industrial and construction enterprises and transport are still not working," Izvestia said.

Pravda today quoted local authorities in the town of Kirovakan, north of Yerevan, as saying 70 per cent of enterprises

were working.

And in nearby Dilizhan, Pravda said factory workers held meetings on Thursday before deciding against going on strike. "After expressing support for the demands expressed in Opera Square, the Dilizhan people still decided to work."

Opera Square in Yerevan has been the centre of demonstrations and meetings since the Nagorno-Karabakh issue flared five months ago. Up to a million people took part in protests in February without any reports of violence.

Official reports say 36 people were injured in the airport clashes, and a 22-year-old youth died in related violence.

Heat wave kills 41 in Europe

BELGRADE, July 8. (AP) At least 26 people have died in a heat wave that has affected the Yugoslav capital since the beginning of July, and 15 deaths were reported in Greece for the same reason.

In a climax of heat-related deaths, 11 people died on July 3, said the Politika daily quoting Belgrade doctors.

Alert

Wednesday was one of the hottest days in Belgrade's history, with temperatures soaring over 40 degrees Centigrade (104 Fahrenheit), the reports said.

The heat was expected to continue and doctors advised Bel-

grade citizens to stay indoors as much as possible, eat light foods and avoid alcoholic beverages.

Hospitals around Greece were placed on alert to handle heat-wave victims as temperatures in Athens reached 42 degrees Celsius (106 Fahrenheit) on yesterday for the second straight day.

The national weather service said temperatures were not expected to drop until Sunday. "The smog of Athens sent 496

people to hospital with cardiac and respiratory problems as pollution reached murderous levels," said a statement issued by the pan-Hellenic Centre for Ecologic Studies.

The National Centre for Emergency Help said 404 people went to hospital out-patient clinics with heart and breathing difficulties and 92 were hospitalized. It said hospitals also admitted 25 heatstroke victims.

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2) Centre of English Studies	9 July	23 August
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3) Library will remain open mornings and evenings until 2 August. From 3 August - 18 August it will be opened evenings only. The library will resume normal working hours with effect from 20 August 1988.

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Zia may ease tax crackdown

ISLAMABAD, July 8. (Reuter) Pakistani President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq said yesterday he might soften plans for a crackdown on tax dodgers, only two days after his finance minister had ruled out any changes.

The official APP news agency quoted Zia as assuring a delegation of businessmen: "There is nothing which should be taken as the last word in such matters... the government is always responsive to genuine demands and suggestions."

Pleading

The presidential decree incorporating the measures, which were announced on June 26 and which businessmen denounced as harsh and humiliating, has not yet been issued.

The agency said one delegate died of heart attack at an earlier

meeting with government ministers while pleading for the withdrawal of a new sales tax on steel products.

Finance Minister Mahbubul Haq had said tax dodgers would face up to 14 years in jail, confiscation of property, loss of all state benefits and a ban on contesting in elections.

He vowed on Monday to stick to the proposals, despite businessmen's threats of protest.

But APP quoted him as telling yesterday's meeting that the government would not hesitate to change its mind "if the business community established that any of the budgetary measures was against the national interest."

Officials had said they expected the crackdown to yield an extra Rs2.5 billion (\$140 million) in revenue.

Smuggled spies attend Taiwan party congress

TAIPEI, July 8, (Reuters): A delegation of Taiwan spies smuggled in from China is giving a cloak-and-dagger twist to a Nationalist Party congress in Taiwan this week.

Party officials say that among the 1,209 delegates at the congress are 50 nationalist spies taking a break from undercover work in China.

They were smuggled back to the island and their identities are the most tightly guarded secrets at the meetings.

"For their own safety, they will not be exposed to the public," Ma Ying-jeow, the Nationalist Party's deputy secretary-general, said. "Otherwise, they might have difficulty getting back into China."

The secret agents, working inside what Taiwan regards as "bandit territory", are part of the nationalists' effort to regain control of China, which they lost when communist forces drove them from Taiwan.

"At this time, when our mainland compatriots strongly oppose the despotic communist rule... we must all the more actively and aggressively carry out our mainland work programme," secretary-general Lee Huan told delegates.

Lee said nationalist agents "behind enemy lines" must redouble their efforts to preach the good news of Taiwan's economic growth and to promote the island as a model for China.

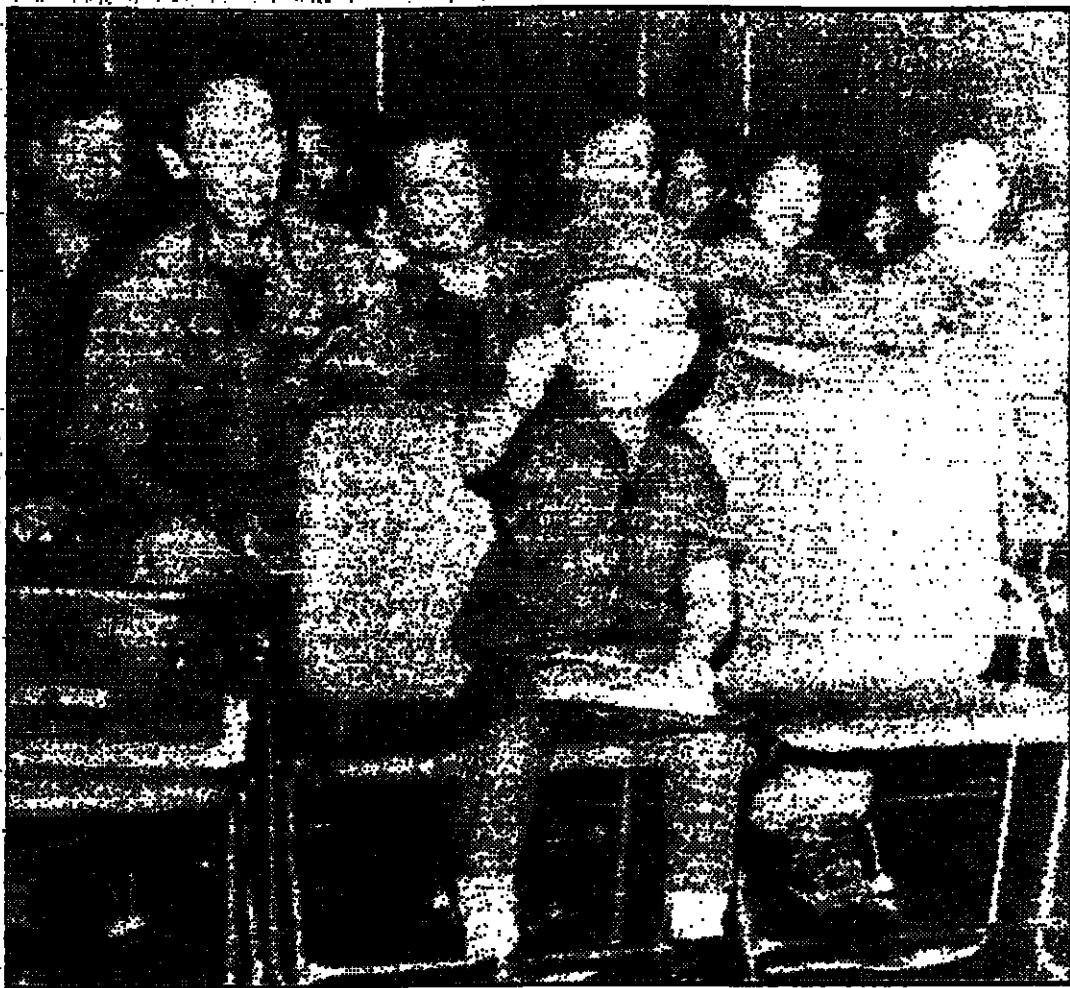
Not all of Taiwan's secret agents were able to make it for this week's congress.

The official Central News Agency has reported that the nationalists received 237 congratulatory messages from agents still in the field.

The messages included coded telegrams, paintings and even letters written in blood.

Meanwhile, Lee Teng-hui, Taiwan's first island-born President, became chairman of the ruling nationalist party today.

Lee's election was widely expected. But delegates to the seven-day congress, at which the nationalists hope to present a new face of democracy, were stunned when a young legislator marched to the podium and demanded a secret ballot.



● Never too young. "Bang, bang", says Rainiel Ochoa, two-year-old son of a military officer charged in the Aug 28 coup attempt against the Philippine government. (Reuters wirephoto)

Following death sentence of Palestinian hijackers

Security alert in Karachi

KARACHI, July 8, (Reuters): Pakistani police tightened security at an American airline office in Karachi and around the airport on Thursday following the sentencing to death of five Palestinian hijackers, police said.

Security staff at the Pan Am office were increased while airport officials confirmed they were on top alert.

Extra security checks at the airport caused long delays for passengers, many of them pilgrims taking special flights to Mecca in Saudi Arabia.

A special court in Rawalpindi, near the capital Islamabad, sentenced the Palestinians to death on Wednesday for the 1986 plane hijack and murder of 22 people.

Four of the five seized and held a Pan Am Boeing 747 for 16 hours at Karachi airport before

Pakistan commandos stormed the aircraft in an assault which ended with 22 dead and 100 wounded.

Action
The US State Department praised Pakistan for the death sentences, saying the court's decision "is an important action in bringing the rule of law to bear against terrorists."

Western diplomats in Islamabad said there were strong indications that some at least of the five would hang if they lost their appeals against the death sentence. They have 30 days to appeal.

President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq has always been tough on terrorism, a diplomat said, adding that he did not believe the sentences would cause any great public anger in strongly Islamic

Pakistan.

In 1985, one of four men sentenced to death for the 1981 hijacking of Pakistan International Airlines plane to Kabul and Damascus was hanged despite international calls for clemency. The three others had their sentences commuted to life imprisonment.

Praise
The father of a young Indian flight attendant killed in the 1986 hijacking of Pan Am airliner has praised the Pakistan court which sentenced his daughter's killers to death.

Nearja Misra, 23, was posthumously given India's highest civilian award for bravery for alerting the flight crew of the Pan Am jet when the hijacking at Karachi airport began.

Dutch minister to visit West Bank Palestinian camp

THE HAGUE, July 8, (AP): Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van Den Broek is to visit a Palestinian refugee camp on the occupied West Bank during a trip to Israel later this month, the Foreign Ministry confirmed here today.

The planned tour on July 18 of the Qalandiya camp, 10 kilometres north of Jerusalem, marks another step in the Netherlands' gradual disengagement from its formerly unflinching loyalty to the Jewish state.

The trip to the occupied territories is part of a two-day visit by Van Den Broek and Premier Ruud Lubbers to Israel on the occasion of that nation's 40th anniversary. Lubbers was not planning to travel to Qalandiya, according to a Foreign Ministry spokesman.

The Israeli visit, which has been postponed several times because of the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, has been the subject of considerable controversy here.

Jewish organisations here have claimed that by dragging its feet on the visit, which was originally scheduled for May, Lubbers' government was signalling support for the Palestinian uprising against Israel's

occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

At the time, the Foreign Ministry here claimed "scheduling problems," saying that both the Dutch dignitaries and their Israeli counterparts had trouble finding a convenient date for the visit.

During their visit, scheduled for July 18-19, Lubbers and Van Den Broek are scheduled to have talks with Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

In Tel Aviv, where the Dutch embassy is located, Van Den Broek will also meet with Palestinian representatives, according to the Foreign Ministry spokesman.

The spokesman refused to identify those Palestinians by name, but in the past, Van Den Broek has scrupulously avoided any official contacts with known members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

When Van Den Broek met PLO leader Yasser Arafat more than two years ago in Tunis, it was in his capacity of chairman of the European Common Market's council of foreign ministers during the Netherlands' six-month tenure as the EEC's president in 1986.

Shultz renews pledge to ASEAN

US to help Vietnam refugees

BANGKOK, July 8, (AP): US Secretary of State George Shultz told Southeast Asian leaders Thursday they do not stand alone in dealing with the tide of refugees still fleeing Indochina 13 years after the end of the war.

"The commitment of the United States to resolve the Indochinese refugee problem is as strong today as it has been in the past," Shultz said. "We have come a long way... now we solemnly recommit ourselves to stay the course."

Shultz admitted a long-standing policy by Southeast Asians to grant temporary asylum to the refugees was in jeopardy and proposed a mix of strategies, including a Bangkok-based working group that would "craft new approaches."

Shultz spoke at the opening session of a three-day "dialogue" among the foreign ministers of the Association of Southeast

Asian Nations and close partners Japan, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the European Economic Community and the United States.

Focusing on Kampuchea, Shultz said the US remained "unilaterally opposed" to the Khmer Rouge returning to power in that country. He urged strong support for resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk and non-communist groups fighting the Vietnamese in Kampuchea.

"They represent the political alternative to the Vietnamese occupation and the Khmer Rouge and are key to a Kampuchean settlement," Shultz said.

He said continued pressure had to be exerted on Vietnam to withdraw all its forces from Kampuchea, but added: "We look forward to the time when Vietnam will rejoin the community of nations."

Last Fatah stronghold falls to dissidents

Arafat loyalists quit Beirut camp

BEIRUT, July 8, (Reuters): Some 200 defeated Palestinian guerrillas, loyal to PLO chairman Yasser Arafat evacuated their last stronghold in the Lebanese capital today.

The fighters left Bourj Al Barajneh refugee camp watched by hundreds of weary refugee women, elderly men and children at the rubble-strewn entrance, eyewitnesses said.

The evacuation of the Arafat loyalists to the southern port city of Sidon followed the seizure of the camp — the largest settlement in Beirut — by Palestinian dissidents led by Abu Musa.

Women and children wept and wailed as sons and brothers left the camp. Elderly men, tears in their eyes, embraced the fighters and wished them luck.

Evacuation

"It is as if I lost a beloved son or husband," sobbed a 50-year-old woman who watched the men leave in four trucks and two civilian cars, escorted by Syrian troops. Lebanese police and some leftist factions.

The fighters, clad in olive green military fatigues and brandishing automatic rifles and rocket-propelled grenades, marched to the trucks from the narrow alleyways of the camp chanting slogans in support of the Palestine Liberation

Organisation (PLO) leader.

They were among 1,200 Arafat followers fighting against the Abu Musa forces for control of the battered Bourj Al Barajneh camp since April. More than 110 people were killed in the fighting.

Yesterday, Abu Musa guerrillas won the final battle for the control of the ruins almost 10 days after they captured the nearby Shatila camp forcing more than 100 Arafat loyalists out to Sidon.

"When my daughter died in the fighting I did not feel as sad as I feel now. Our homes have been destroyed. The camp is now without any men. Our security and support is gone. God knows what will happen to us," said Umm Ibrahim.

Many distressed women fainted as they said farewell to their sons.

Palestinian sources said some Arafat supporters were still in Bourj Al Barajneh after today's withdrawal and an estimated 400 guerrillas had surrendered or left over the past week.

Women and Fatah commander Sultan Abu Al Ainein were among the evacuees.

Syrian troops and Abu Musa guerrillas now control Bourj Al Barajneh's maze of hills of rubble, garbage and the shell-pocked concrete houses and tin

shacks. Palestinian sources and political analysts said the loss of the two shantytowns in Beirut was a serious political and military blow for Arafat, despite his publicised reconciliation with Syria's President Hafez Al Assad.

It also strengthened Syria's role in Lebanon ahead of presidential elections in the war-torn country.

Welcome

The evacuees arrived in Sidon's Ein El Hilweh refugee camp to a warm welcome from fellow Fatah guerrillas.

"The heroes are welcome amongst their brothers," chanted a group of guerrillas at the entrance to Ein El Hilweh, who fired their automatic rifles in the air in the traditional welcome.

Women ululated and threw rice and rose water at the convoy as it drove slowly into shantytown, the largest Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon with a population of nearly 50,000.

Abul Ainein, talking to reporters at Ein El Hilweh, said Fatah fighters were ousted from Beirut "as a result of plot."

"The plot aims at finishing the PLO," Abul Ainein charged. He refused to elaborate on the remark.

Another car bomb hits Kabul

ISLAMABAD, July 8, (AP): The second car bomb in two days went off on Thursday in Afghanistan's capital, killing one person, Kabul Radio reported. Six died in the explosion a day earlier.

In a late report about a guerrilla rocket attack on the city, Western diplomats said a West German free-lance journalist was among the wounded. The diplomats, who spoke on condition of anonymity, did not give his name.

Kabul Radio said seven people were killed in the rocket attack on Wednesday afternoon. The car bomb that killed six people exploded earlier in the day near the building that houses the Communist Party central committee.

Western diplomats and leaders of Muslim guerrillas fighting the communist government say security around Kabul has deteriorated since the Soviet Union began pulling its troops out of Afghanistan under an agreement mediated by the United Nations.

Diplomats said on Thursday they had confirmation of reports that guerrillas captured Mohammad Agha, a district capital 40 kilometres south of Kabul in Logar province. It is astride the Logar road, which the sources described as the only remaining secure route south from Kabul.

Cordovez

UN envoy Diego Cordovez, who negotiated the withdrawal agreement in Geneva, met in Kabul on Thursday with Afghan leader Najib, who uses only one name. Cordovez is due in Islamabad today.

The agreement was signed on April 14 by Pakistan and Afghanistan, with the United States and Soviet Union as guarantors. The insurgents, who are supported by the United States, were left out of the negotiations and have said they will ignore the resulting accord.

Khomeini prepares for transition

TEHRAN, July 8, (Reuters): Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini is in good health and busily preparing for a transition of power without disruptive infighting between radicals and moderates, diplomats said on Thursday.

The US Central Intelligence Agency reported recently that Khomeini was terminally ill with cancer and would not live out the year, they said.

But the diplomats, quoting well-informed officials in Tehran, said the 85-year-old Khomeini was as healthy as his years permitted.

"You hear these rumours here all the time, but as far as we know Khomeini is not ill at all," one Western diplomat said.

The imam, enshrined in the constitution as political and spiritual leader, is, however, taking steps to avoid a power struggle when he eventually dies, they said.

Last month, the speaker of parliament, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, was given the key post of acting armed forces com-

mander-in-chief. The diplomats said this virtually amounted him as Khomeini's heir.

"The transition period has already started," one said. "The appointment of Rafsanjani was already a transitional move."

They said Khomeini was also clearly shifting his support from fundamentalist radicals who see themselves as the guarantors of the Islamic revolution to pragmatic members of the leadership such as Rafsanjani.

Khomeini in January issued a directive backing parliament and the government against conservatives who have held up legislation they feel would not conform to Islamic tradition.

He created a council to mediate between senior religious figures vetting legislation for Islamic purity and parliament.

Ayatollah Montazeri has been officially named Khomeini's successor as Wali Faqih — religious leader. But Rafsanjani would probably outshine him in practical government matters when Khomeini died, the diplomats said.

Drug traders face death in Bangladesh

DHAKA, July 8, (AP): Parliament has approved the death penalty for people convicted of drug offences or trafficking in women, government statements said today.

The action was taken late Thursday by the 300-seat Parliament, in which President Hussain Muhammad Ershad's ruling Jatiya Party has a four-fifths majority.

Ershad was expected to sign the new laws quickly.

The legislation sets a minimum penalty of seven years in jail and a maximum penalty of death for drug-related crimes. Earlier, the maximum sentence was 10 years in jail.

There had been no law against trafficking in women, which has been an increasing problem in Bangladesh.

Police and border guards say that more than 4,000 women have been rescued from being taken illegally across the border with India this year.

The security forces say the women are lured with promises of jobs outside Bangladesh, but often end up sold into prostitution.

The new women's protection law sets a minimum penalty of seven years in jail for traffickers and a maximum of death.

Prime Minister Moudud Ahmed told the Parliament that the new laws would act as a deterrent to crimes involving drugs and against women.

Bangladesh Army launch relief action

DHAKA, July 8, (Reuters): The Bangladesh Army began flood relief operations today after nine people died in landslides caused by heavy rain, bringing the death toll from monsoon rains and flooding to at least 32, officials said.

They said a cabinet meeting on Thursday decided to call out the Army after the nine were killed by landslides in Sunamganj and Habiganj districts.

At least another 23 people have died and tens of thousands have been made homeless by flooding across a vast area in four north-eastern districts of Bangladesh.

Officials said air and rail transport to the area had been suspended because Sylhet airport had been flooded and some rail tracks were knee-deep in water.

An official at Dhaka's flood monitoring office said hundreds of thousands of people were still marooned in the Sunamganj and Sylhet areas, with many perched on the roofs of half-flooded houses.

Weather officials said they expected more rain across the country in next two days.

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Tug carries newsmen to Iran Air disaster

DUBAI, July 8. (Agencies): A small tugboat limped across the strait-torn Gulf earlier this week to carry a group of foreign newsmen to Iran to cover the Iranian Airbus disaster.

The 60-foot (18-metre) tug Sea Rock set out on the 17-hour journey by moonlight from near Dubai across the Strait of Hormuz, passing within 10 miles of the crash site near Iran's Hamgam Island.

The strait, where the US cruiser Vincennes shot the plane carrying 290 people out of the sky on Sunday, was glassy smooth. In the tug's bridge, only the radio crackle of ships contacting each other broke the silence.

Nothing more harmful than sea snakes and flying fish rained the waters near where the Vincennes sank two Iranian gunboats just before downing the Airbus.

Challenge

At around Tuesday midnight, a US warship radioed to the Omani Coastguard: "We are passing through Omani waters and do not mean any challenge to your territorial integrity."

Shipping in the strait, where 40 tankers a day carry one sixth of the non-communist world's oil imports, has dropped off since the Airbus disaster.

As the Filipino-crewed Sea Rock neared Bandar Abbas, Iran's main naval base, the rugged white cliffs of Iranian islands came into view.

Gunboats fitted with rocket-propelled grenades and machine-guns launch lightning raids from bases along the coast.

Twenty miles out of port, the Sea Rock, limping along with engine trouble at seven knots, passed Iran's vital Larak oil terminal which finances its war with Iraq.

A mile to port lay the burnt-out bulk of the 235,000-tonne Spanish supertanker Barcelona, set ablaze from end to end in an Iraqi air raid on Larak on May 14 that killed about 20 people.

Jets raced 600 miles down the Gulf and dropped parachute bombs from 200 metres (650 feet) on the Barcelona and three other ships including the world's biggest vessel, the 564,739-tonne Seawise Giant.

Iranian shipping sources have said the Hong Kong-owned Seawise Giant, out of sight in the haze as the Sea Rock passed by, could soon be towed to Dubai for repairs.

Also at Larak was the 268,081 Greek tanker Fortuneship L., set ablaze by an Exocet missile fired by an Iraqi warplane further north on July 3.

Close to it was the Singaporean tug Salvere, which lost two crew in an Iraqi Exocet attack in the Gulf last month.

At Bandar Abbas, the newsmen had a friendly reception.

"You are most welcome to Iranian territorial waters," a Coastguard boat radioed. "I wish you very nice time for all your crew in Bandar Abbas."

Escorted

A patrol boat with anti-aircraft guns escorted the Sea Rock into the busy port on Wednesday afternoon.

Newsmen were taken by bus to

an airport where about 100 bodies from the Airbus had been loaded on a military plane to be taken to Tehran.

They were displayed earlier in a cold store wrapped in plastic sheets. Fuselage and cockpit wreckage from the plane, which Iran says was shot down deliberately, were also on view.

Searching

Meanwhile, a grieving Indian man went from corpse to corpse, searching for five relatives in the dimly lit refrigerated warehouse used as a morgue for victims from the airliner downed by a US Navy missile.

Iranian guides in plain clothes removed the lids from rough wooden coffins and unwrapped the plastic from around several bodies to display the corpses, many of them mutilated by the crash.

"It's a terrible thing that the superpower has done," the weeping man, who would give his name only as Farid, said to a group of Western journalists.

While the morgue employees were preparing the bodies of at least 38 victims to be returned to their countries, those of most of the Iranian victims were flown to Tehran for a mass funeral on Thursday.

In Tehran, tens of thousands of people lined up behind the coffin, draped with Iranian flags, as the pall bearers carried them on their shoulders to martyrs' cemetery. The streets reverberated with cries of "revenge, revenge" and "death to America" as the cortege proceeded through the streets.

Air India pilots want to avoid flying over war zone

BOMBAY, July 8. (Reuters): Air India pilots want to avoid the Gulf war zone after the shooting down of an Iran Air passenger plane by a US warship, the Indian Pilots Guild (IPG) said on Thursday.

IPG vice-president Shankar Roy said Air India flights from Delhi to Gulf cities via Pakistan had to fly over Iranian air space and through the war zone for at least two hours.

"You can imagine the kind of tension that the crew experiences on such flights," Roy said in an interview.

Iran said all 290 passengers aboard an Iran Air Airbus flight from Bandar Abbas to Dubai were killed when the aircraft was shot down early last Sunday. Washington said the downing of the plane was an unfortunate accident.

"This could happen to any aircraft flying in the war zone and our route falls exactly on the line of firing," Roy said.

He said the IPG had written on Monday to the Civil Aviation Ministry and to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, himself a former pilot for the largely domestic carrier, Indian Airlines.

Roy said the letters demanded that Air India be told to avoid the risky route and opt for a safer

one.

According to IPG, Air India operates every week 97 flights through the Gulf war zone.

Roy said the IPG suggested flying through Abu Dhabi as that route did not touch the war zone and was used by other international airlines.

An Air India spokesman declined comment on the IPG demands. After the Iran Air disaster, it said it had no plans to change its routes.

UAE to receive bodies of its nationals

ABU DHABI, July 8. (KUNA): The UAE embassy in Tehran is due to receive today the bodies of its nationals killed in the shooting down of an Iranian commercial airliner by the US Navy in the Arabian Gulf last Sunday, while on a routine flight from Bandar Abbas to Dubai.

Abu Dhabi-based daily Al-Itihad quoted the UAE Charge d'Affaires to Iran Tareq Ahmed Al-Haidan today saying that in all there will be 17 bodies, 12 of which were identified, and the rest will be determined upon arrival to Dubai tomorrow from Tehran.

Bodies of some Iranian victims will also be on board the same plane, upon the request of their families living in the UAE.

Vincennes celebrates third birthday

WASHINGTON, July 8. (Reuters): The US cruiser Vincennes, which shot down an Iranian airliner on Sunday, turned three years old on Wednesday.

The 563-foot (171-metre) Aegis cruiser, one of the world's most sophisticated ships, is at the centre of an investigation under way by a Pentagon team in the Gulf after the ship used a standard-2 missile to down the Airbus with 290 persons aboard.

US officials said the 9,600-tonne ship mistook the civilian passenger jet on its radar screen for an Iranian fighter jet.

The Vincennes, named after a city in Indiana, joined the US fleet on July 6, 1985. It was the third Ticonderoga Class cruiser built to carry the sophisticated Aegis tracking and anti-aircraft weapons control system.

Yugoslavia protests

BELGRADE, July 8. (Reuters): Yugoslavia protested to the United States on Thursday over the shooting down of an Iranian airliner in the Gulf in which six Yugoslavs died, the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug said.

It said assistant foreign minister Drago Mirovic "expressed discontent and bitterness" about Sunday's shooting in a note handed to US Ambassador to Yugoslavia John Scanlan.

Red Crescent team visits West Germany

BONN, July 8. (KUNA): A delegation of the Jeddah-based general secretariat of Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross societies is visiting Federal Germany for talks with Red Cross officials on exchange of expertise in the field of combating natural disasters and organization of humanitarian relief programmes.

Headed by secretary-general of the national Arab societies, Abdulghani Alashi, the delegation is seeking assistance from the German Red Cross in combating locusts in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia.

The delegation, representing 11 Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross societies, would also raise the question of dispatching relief supplies, mainly foodstuffs to Mauritania, where famine from drought has struck again.

Mellor meets Kuwaiti envoy

LONDON, July 8. (KUNA): British Foreign Office Minister David Mellor met on Thursday afternoon Kuwait's Ambassador in London Ghazi Al-Rayes.

The meeting, which was at the envoy's request, dealt with "matters of mutual interest", according to diplomatic sources here.

Mellor, who is responsible for the Middle East, meets regularly Arab ambassadors accredited to the UK.

Tiny insects invade Kuwait

By Lima Al Khalafawi

INCREASING number of people have been recently complaining of being bitten by small, whitish insects.

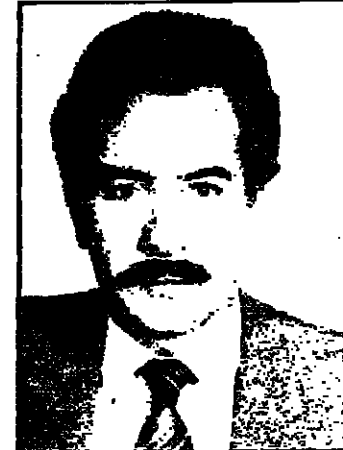
However, the acting Director of the Rodent and Insects Control Department at the Ministry of Public Health, Dr Mohamed Tantawi Omar, said these insects known as "Leptodermus minutus" do not carry any disease.

He said these insects which invaded Kuwait last year have done so again this year. They have been brought by high winds from North Africa, Arab Peninsula and appeared in increasing numbers after severe dust-storms. The big swarms that temporarily invaded Kuwait in 1985 were also due to sand-storms accompanied by high winds, he disclosed.

Spraying

The ministry sprayed insecticides on Thursday in different areas of Kuwait. The Insects and Rodent Control Department at the Ministry of Public Health initiated the spraying programme with the Sea Front Project.

Tantawi disclosed that six vehicles started spraying insecticides using fogging machines and ULV generators and all residential areas would be covered within a week.



Dr Omar

Dr Nadia Al Ali at the casualty clinic of Mubarak hospital said that a large number of adults and children visited the clinics complaining of being bitten by these insects. She asked patients not to worry unduly: as these bites only cause irritation to the skin. She said these weak insects only absorb liquid from the skin and not blood. Tricofol and Calamine ointment are prescribed to people who are allergic to bites.

Incidentally, several victims of these insects reported to Arab Times of getting almost immediate relief after bathing in water to which a little Dettol had been added.

UK clinches Saudi arms deal

LONDON, July 8. (Reuters): Britain announced an arms deal with Saudi Arabia today involving sales of warplanes and ships, and said this would significantly boost the kingdom's defences.

The Defence Ministry did not give cost or other details of the deal, a new phase of a project launched two years ago. But Britain's Press Association News Agency said London would sell Riyadh about 30 Tornado long-range interceptor planes and minehunter vessels and construct two Tornado bases in the kingdom.

An official ministry spokesman said the deal was worth more than £7 billion (\$12 billion) and enable Britain to overtake the United States as the biggest supplier of arms to Saudi Arabia.

Provide

The news agency said the package could be worth more than £7 billion (\$12 billion) and enable Britain to overtake the United States as the biggest supplier of arms to Saudi Arabia.

The ministry said: "The agreement will provide for a significant enhancement to the existing defence capabilities of the

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in a major, new phase of project Al Yamamah, involving the supply of additional aircraft, a construction programme and specialised Navy vessels."

Project Al Yamamah entailed the supply by Britain of 132 warplanes, including 72 advanced Tornados developed by Britain, West Germany and Italy.

As part of the £5.5 billion (\$9.4 billion) deal two years ago, Britain had agreed to offset part of the cost by investing in joint industrial projects in Saudi Arabia. But differences had arisen over the type of investment to be made.

Rival

Last month, arms manufacturers from Britain, West Germany, Italy, France, Belgium and the Netherlands travelled to Riyadh to brief top Gulf Navy officers on their rival bids for multi-million-dollar minehunter contracts.

Western sources said the Saudis wanted to buy six of the vessels to counter the mine threat from the Iran-Iraq war.

Military sources in the region said last month there appeared

to have been narrowed down to a "Sandown" class vessel with a glass-reinforced-plastic hull developed by Britain's Vosper Thornycroft and a French-Dutch-Belgian consortium model.

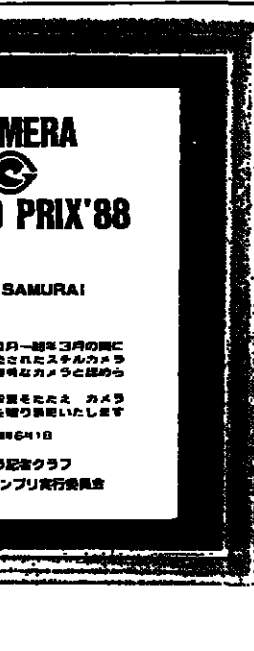
Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah met British Defence Procurement Minister Lord Trefgarne in London in mid-June.

Signed

The minister said the agreement was signed last Sunday by British Defence Secretary George Younger and his Saudi counterpart, Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz.

Shares in British Aerospace, which makes the Tornado, surged strongly on speculation about the deal, rising 25 pence (43 cents) to \$4.31 (\$7.37) before the official announcement.

British Aerospace chief executive, Admiral Sir Raymond Lygo, said last December the company was well placed to win a contract from Saudi Arabia to build two new air base complexes worth £10 billion (\$17.1 billion)



Samurai the new vertically held compact SLR camera from Yashica has been selected as the most outstanding of the cameras newly placed on the Japanese domestic market for the Camera Grand Prix '88. Samurai was selected out of 64 models which were launched in Japan for the period of April 1987 to March 1988.

COMPUTER ANALYSTS/PROGRAMMERS

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EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

MERIT and good breeding will make their way everywhere — Lord Chesterfield, English statesman (1694-1773).

Iran Air tragedy

Latest costly US misadventure

By Edward Shields

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): The downing of an Iranian airliner in the Gulf is but the latest in a series of spectacular misadventures by the US military.

President Jimmy Carter began the modernisation of US armed forces after the Vietnam war, but the drive has not guaranteed success.

On April 14, 1980, Carter mounted an elaborate operation to rescue 52 Americans held hostage in the US embassy in Tehran.

Eight helicopters from the carrier Nimitz set out to rendezvous in the desert with C-130 refuelling planes.

One helicopter had engine failure and returned to the carrier, a second was brought down in a sandstorm and a third reached the rendezvous point but could not continue.

The mission was aborted because five helicopters were considered insufficient for the rescue. Taking off for return, a C-130 collided with a chopper, killing eight men.

An inquiry found that the helicopters, designed for anti-submarine operations, could not operate in the sandy desert air.

Failures

The Reagan administration vastly increased the US military buildup — but had its own failures.

A force of Marines landed in Beirut to help bring peace among warring factions.

The unit was confined to its barracks at Beirut Airport without a clear-cut mission, and on Oct 23, 1983, 241 men were killed by a single saboteur who drove an explosive-laden truck into their tightly guarded barracks.

On Oct 25 of that year, Marines intended originally as a Beirut backup force were diverted to invade the tiny island of Grenada, shaken by a leftist coup.

The mission was to rescue American students at a medical

school. The invading force met with unexpected resistance from about 600 Cubans, ostensibly on the island to build an airport landing strip.

It took several days to control the island. A Congressional inquiry later disclosed that the invading forces lacked maps and the Marines operated on a different radio frequency from the supporting Navy units.

One Marine officer told of using a public telephone to call US Navy headquarters in Norfolk, Virginia, to relay a message to US ships off Grenada's coast.

On April 14, 1986, an air and sea operation designed to discourage alleged Libyan operations destroyed a civilian apartment building — and according to a recent account — failed to destroy radar installations used to target attacking aircraft.

One American fighter-bomber was lost, apparently to coastal anti-aircraft missiles.

On May 18, 1987, the commander of the frigate Stark, which was escorting US-flagged vessels through the Gulf, considered an approaching Iraqi aircraft as friendly and did not order it to be fired on.

Error

The Iraqi pilot, in an action both Iraq and the United States officially called an error, fired a missile at the Stark, killing 37 US sailors.

The US captain faced a court-martial but was allowed to resign from the Navy.

The United States mounted the escort operation with sophisticated weapons against modern missiles but none against old-fashioned mines.

In the first convoy, on July 24, 1987, the tanker Bridgeton was holed by a World War I vintage mine, which US officials said was planted by Iran.

It was then disclosed the US Gulf force not only had been provided with no minesweepers, but the entire US fleet had only about a dozen operational sweepers and all in US ports.

China enters crucial period

Crime and protests threaten reforms

By Guy Dinmore

BEIJING, (Reuters): Chinese leaders have ordered their security forces to take a tougher line on rising crime and outbreaks of popular discontent which are seen as threatening the country's ambitious reform programme.

Premier Li Peng told a security conference in Beijing that China's reforms were entering a new stage, "a crucial period," the official legal news reported on Wednesday.

"Today's reforms, especially, are facing very difficult problems such as prices, wages, the labour system and other issues," he was quoted as saying. "All kinds of contradictions are increasing. The social situation is becoming more and more complex."

"Because of this, public security organs must adopt long-term ideological preparation and concrete measures to deal with trouble-making, riots, all kinds of foreign sabotage, and serious crimes," Li told the annual meeting of police chiefs.

Crime

Western diplomats said China's rising crime wave, corruption among Communist Party and government officials and an apparent growth in street protests were undermining the economic reforms inspired by senior leader Deng Xiaoping.

"It's a political issue. Their fear of widespread discontent has not materialised but they want to make sure it is avoided. Will it lead to Polish-style food riots?" one diplomat asked.

"It's hard to evaluate the strength of popular discontent. We have so little information. On the surface things are generally quiet although people are very unhappy about price rises," he added.

Political opponents of Deng's reforms could try and use the issue of law and order and party corruption as ammunition to back a harder line, diplomat said.

Qiao Shi, a leading politburo member widely believed to be in charge of China's internal

security apparatus, described the present state of social order as "grim".

"It will likely be grim in the coming years," Qiao was quoted as telling the conference.

Li ordered the 200 conference participants, including leading judges and state prosecutors, to carry out reform of the public security system and mete out heavier penalties for serious crimes harmful to political stability.

Crackdown

Since a harsh crackdown on crime began in 1983, thousands of people have been executed, according to Western analysts.

An East European source said Chinese police have been studying methods used by police in Poland, Yugoslavia and South Korea to curb domestic unrest.

A 90-minute film of South Korean police in action against rioting students has been viewed, the source said.

In recent months, Chinese police have had to deal with a wide variety of situations.

Last March, hundreds of Tibetans fought with riot police during anti-Chinese demonstrations in Lhasa. One policeman and at least four Tibetans were killed.

An attempt by over 100 Beijing University students to march for more democracy and free speech last month was blocked peacefully and efficiently by hundreds of police who sealed off the heart of the capital.

But two weeks later, peasants near Beijing alleged that police using batons tipped with an electric charge brutally attacked a crowd of 3,000 villagers protesting against pollution of their water supply.

This year also saw China's worst ever football riots when over 1,000 fans went on the rampage in southern Sichuan province, attacking police and looting a hotel.

According to the minister of public security, the number of serious crimes in China rose by 25 per cent in 1987 over 1986.

End of the old-fashioned seniority in the US Congress

Aggressive young lawmakers take the lead

WASHINGTON: Thirteen years ago, a shock wave hit the House of Representatives. Three autocratic committee chairmen were ousted by the majority Democrats, partly at the insistence of a self-styled group of reformers who were swept into Congress on the coattails of the Watergate scandal.

"It was the end of the old-fashioned seniority system," recalls House Judiciary Committee chairman Peter Rodino (D) of New Jersey. It was also the beginning of a new political reality in the House, one where once unassailable chairmen were forced to consider the wishes of even the lowliest freshmen.

Today, a more subtle change in committee leadership is in the offing, but one that will influence the House for years to come.

Partisan

It is a generational changing of the guard. The uppermost tiers of the House hierarchy are coming within reach of the very cadre of younger lawmakers who helped launch the revolt against last decade's sitting chairmen. These prospective leaders promise to be more partisan than their predecessors, more aggressive in seizing opportunities to wield legislative power, and more adept at mastering the media-politics of the post-Vietnam era.

Changes

Before Representative Aspin assumed his post, the Armed Services Committee had been considered a safe haven for the Pentagon; it was comprised mostly of conservative champions of military programmes who were loath to criticize the Reagan administration's defence buildup. But the panel has been reshaped under Aspin's leadership — its historic pro-Pentagon tilt squelched with the addition of younger, more liberal lawmakers.

Meanwhile, Aspin has joined with the Democratic leadership to craft a party defence policy. In recent years, the committee's defence spending bills have

served as vehicles for leadership-sponsored arms control proposals opposed by the administration. "It's really a different place since Les took over," says Rep. Dave McCurdy (D) of Oklahoma.

There have been similar changes in the House's Democratic leadership. Rep. Tony Coelho, a fifth-term Democrat from California, won election last year to the third-ranking slot in the House leadership hierarchy. As majority whip, Representative Coelho has teamed with House Speaker Jim Wright (D) of Texas in refining a hardball political style that usually guarantees Democratic victories and infuriates the House's Republican minority.

"What's it like when Tony asks for your vote?" asks one House Democrat. "Let's see — ever been propositioned by a gorilla?"

That approach differs sharply from the style established by Speaker Wright's predecessor, former Speaker Thomas "Tip" O'Neill Jr. of Massachusetts. O'Neill wielded power inconspicuously; his efforts were concentrated on building personal relationships and cutting back-room deals. But, says one Democratic leadership aide, "We lost some important votes with Tip."

Wright and Representative

Coelho's take-charge approach appeals to younger members eager to put their agenda to work. "We want to win, it's that simple," says Coelho.

That sort of aggressiveness has been picked up by some senior House members who are preparing to assume the reins of committees. When Representative Rodino retires next year, he will cede his post to another senior lawmaker, Rep. Jack Brooks (D) of Texas. But their styles could hardly differ more dramatically.

Cautious

Rodino built a reputation as a cautious legislator who used his power more often to obstruct conservative social initiatives than to advance an active agenda of his own. Representative Brooks, on the other hand, took over the backwater Government Operations Committee in 1975 and transformed it into an aggressive instrument of oversight and investigation.

Both served in 1987 on the panel investigating the Iran-Contra affair. Rodino's questions usually focused on legal issues. Brooks, by contrast, emerged as one of the most partisan of the administration's critics on the panel, dismissing more than one top official with an expletive.

"The committee will be popping under Brooks," exclaims

one Democratic Judiciary Committee member. Says Rep. Martin Frost (D) of Texas: "If Jack Brooks were chairman right now, Ed Meese would be in a lot more trouble than he is in."

The top slots of six other House committees are occupied by chairmen in their 70s and 80s. Predicting their successors is an uncertain task — it assumes that Democrats continue to elect chairmen largely based on seniority, and that Republicans, in the minority for 34 years, do not win a majority in the House. Moreover, the heirs apparent on some committees are very much of the "old breed".

But on several committees the transitions promise to bring a change of style and outlook, if not generation. It may be a while before the torch is passed on the powerful House Appropriations Committee, for example. When it is, however, Rep. David Obey (D) of Wisconsin may well find himself chairman. Although he is the sixth-ranking member of the committee, Representative Obey is nearly 20 years younger than anyone before him.

The current chairman, the venerable Rep. Jamie Whitten (D) of Mississippi, shuns the limelight. He has never given a press conference. Obey, on the other hand, is an outspoken liberal who has used the appropriations committee as a

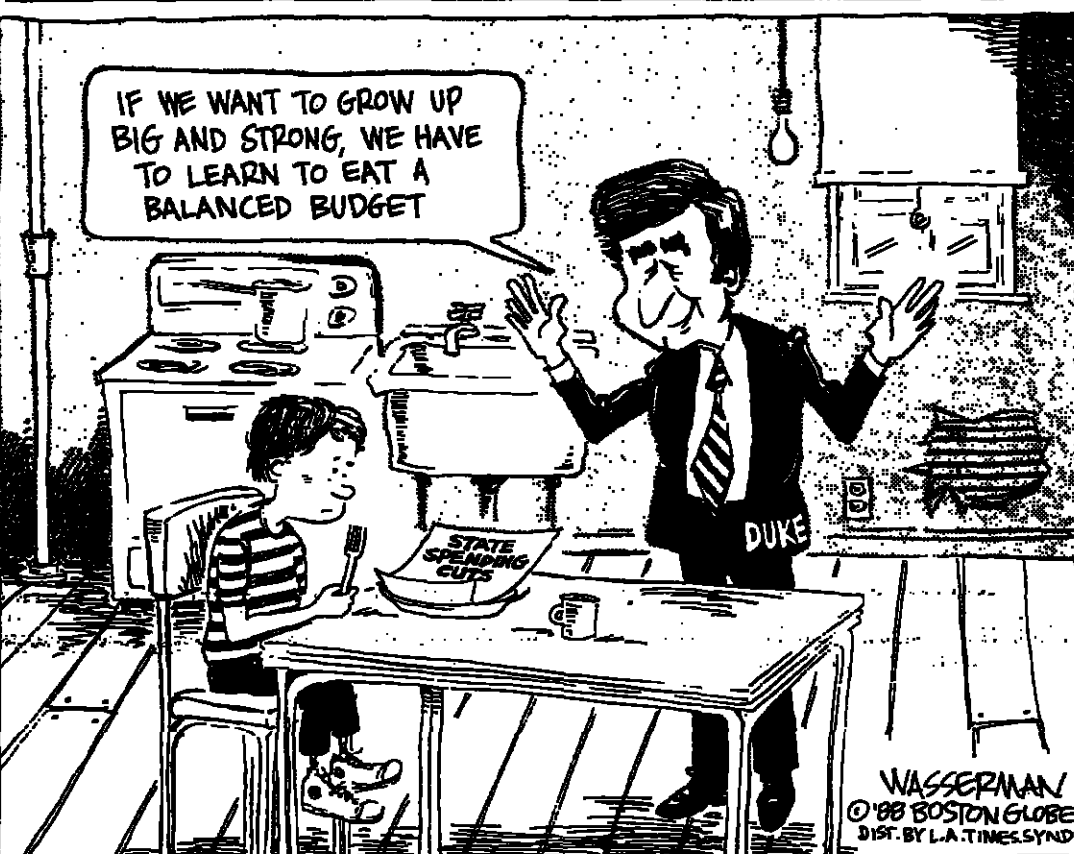
platform from which to launch high-decibel broadsides at the Reagan administration.

Likewise, the quiet reign of Rep. Augustus Hawkins (D) of California over the Education and Labour Committee may some day give way to the tenure of a more combative partisan, Rep. William Ford (D) of Michigan. Representative Ford is the sort of canny legislator who once proposed shutting down 10,000 small-town post offices to comply with budget cuts, knowing the plan would never be adopted.

Republicans view the changes with apprehension. The new generation of Democratic leaders, says Representative Martin, "play by their own set of rules."

Which could be the Democrats' very problem. With so many strong personalities and agendas in play, a few Democrats worry that their colleagues might end up finding it tough to agree on much of anything. "The House will be asserting itself more — there'll be more legislation, more watch-dogging," says Rep. Charles Schumer (D) of New York. "Whether all that activity will be focused in one direction or get thrown out in all different directions remains to be seen."

The Christian Science Monitor News Service.



Soviet capital punishment: a bullet

By Jack Redden

MOSCOW, (UPI): About every two days a prisoner is taken from a cell somewhere in the Soviet Union, a gun is placed to his head and the trigger is pulled. Capital punishment in Russia is traditional and frequent.

Seventy-one years after Vladimir Lenin came to power with a short-lived promise to abolish the death penalty, Soviet officials are again debating the subject.

Soviet television viewers were even shown a documentary in June on a man held on death row for a double killing. The last scene showed his empty cell. The sentence had been carried out.

Although much about capital punishment remains shrouded in official secrecy and more than half the death penalties in the criminal code apply only during war, the Soviet list of capital offences is still a grim anachronism by Western standards.

Crimes such as large-scale bribery, theft of state property or dealing in foreign currency —

"economic crimes" that are byproducts of the communist system itself — can earn the guilty a bullet in the head.

"This may sound horrible by civilised standards," said Dr Vasily Vlasihin, head of legal studies at the Institute of US and Canadian Studies. "The point is the death penalty is here. And I strongly object."

Reform

The debate on capital punishment is part of a broader look at the judicial system inaugurated under Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. The Supreme Soviet, the nominal parliament, is now discussing a major reform that will take at least until next year to appear.

Vlasihin is an expert on US law and many proposals in his 12-page submission to the body examining the Soviet legal code are borrowed from American practice. His desire to end capital punishment — as most Western countries outside the United States have done — is tempered by the same realities US abolitionists face.

"You have to take the public mood into consideration," Vlasihin said in an interview. Despite occasional articles in the state press opposing the death penalty, newspapers say the majority of letters demand tougher rather than more lenient punishment.

"It's hard to resist the public mood and the conservatives who play with it," said Vlasihin. "I realise now that, unfortunately, it's unrealistic to abolish it completely."

Vlasihin believes there is agreement only on eliminating the death penalty for economic crimes. Those instead will draw the maximum 15-year sentence allowed under Soviet law.

Death

Death certainly will be retained for murder, he says, and also for wartime offences and crimes against the state such as treason or terrorism.

Lenin, founder of the communist state, abolished capital punishment when he took power in 1917, only to reinstate it during the ensuing civil war.

With that war ended in 1920, it was again abolished. But later that year Soviet forces were battling Poland and the death penalty was hurriedly brought back. Josef Stalin officially abolished it in 1947, replacing it with a 25-year jail term. Since about one-tenth of all prisoners died each year, that reform meant only a slow death.

By 1954 the death penalty was legally back. Nikita Khrushchev restored death for economic crimes in 1961 because of a case involving speculators selling out the state system. At least 10 people were executed under a law made retroactive.

Officially, the law on capital punishment is termed a temporary measure, existing only "until its complete abolition." But even the debate on reaching that goal is hampered by the secrecy surrounding the Soviet penal system.

Vlasihin says even he does not know the number of executions each year, despite his government appointment to discuss the subject with officials as high as US Assistant Secretary of State Richard Schifter.

However, he can make an educated guess.

Meese leaving depleted US Justice Department

By Pete Yost

WASHINGTON, (AP): Resigning attorney-general Edwin Meese III will leave the Justice Department with inexperienced people in key posts and with numerous questions unanswered about his own conduct.

Meese's announcement Tuesday that he will quit short-circuited a planned ethical review of his activities in his own department, where the Office of Professional Responsibility was prepared to examine possible improper conduct by the attorney-general. The review, could have resulted in a recommendation to President Ronald Reagan that Meese be fired.

Reagan, who has stood by Meese during a 14-month criminal investigation that is just now ending, issued a statement saying "Ed Meese has served the American people loyally and well."

Scandal

The basis for a Justice Department ethics review would have been an 830-page report filed with a federal court Tuesday by independent counsel James McKay.

While the filing signified that McKay was unable to compile enough evidence to seek an indictment of Meese, sources have said the report would be highly critical of Meese's ethical conduct.

The independent counsel looked into Meese's ties to scandal-plagued Wadtech Corp., a \$1 billion Iraqi oil pipeline and his meetings with regional Bell Telephone executives when he held

\$14,000 in phone company stock.

McKay also investigated an arrangement with which members of a Washington real estate family arranged to pay a \$40,000-a-year salary for Meese's wife and then won an office lease renewal with the Justice Department.

Meese decided to resign in part out of the realization that he faces a new and intense round of public criticism when the report by McKay is publicly issued in a few weeks, said Justice Department sources, speaking on condition of anonymity.

By resigning after it has become clear that he will escape indictment, but before the massive report details his activities, Meese is able to declare that he has been vindicated, said the sources.

Meese attempted to play down the importance of the massive document by McKay, saying that "anything that may be in the report is mere commentary and opinion."

Vindicated

Meese declared he had been vindicated at the news conference in California, where he made his surprise announcement.

"The false allegations have been put to rest," he said. "I have stated that I would not resign under a cloud, or until I was completely vindicated."

Department spokesman Patrick Korten said the prospect of an ethical review, which could have dragged on for months, was not "a major factor" in Meese's decision to leave. He said Meese



Edwin Meese III

decided to quit "within the last week or so," after consulting with his wife and top aides, including counselor William Bradford Reynolds.

Each aspect of McKay's investigation involved Meese's relationship with longtime friend E. Robert Wallace, who is under indictment for alleged racketeering in the Wadtech scandal.

Wallace, interviewed Tuesday on the Cable News Network, said McKay "spoke to over 100 witnesses, reviewed thousands and thousands of documents and came up without a single scintilla of evidence of wrongdoing on Ed's part and, I submit, therefore, on my part."

The deputy attorney-general, Harold Christensen, and criminal division chief, Edward Dennis, have been on the job for little more than a month, while the department's No. 3 official, associate attorney-general Francis Keating, has been on the job just two months.

Afghan rebels conquered peaks with prized Soviet weapons

By Lai Kwok Kin

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, (Reuters): Afghan guerrillas call it the king of rifles and say it is worth its weight in gold.

The rebels fighting Soviet troops occupying their homeland prize one small-arm above all others — the AK-74 assault rifle, ironically, a Soviet-made weapon.

A superior cousin of the Avtomat-Kalashnikova or AK-47, this semi- and fully-automatic rifle which guerrillas call the "Kalakov" is said to be issued only to Soviet soldiers and not to Kabul government troops inside Afghanistan.

"It is the king of arms, king of rifles," said 40-year-old guerrilla commander Firoz Khan in the north-western Pakistani city of Peshawar.

To get hold of one, a guerrilla must personally kill a Russian soldier, said Khan, who took the life of a Russian in Kabul in 1980 to capture his Kalakov.

Captured

Guerrillas have captured large caches of weapons, including Soviet-made AK-47s used by government troops, who for more than eight years have been supported by Russian soldiers sent by Moscow to prop up the Kabul government.

The effectiveness of the Kalakov, together with other weapons captured from the Soviet Army, has played an

important role in the war.

Fighting still rages in the landlocked country but Moscow, frustrated by the cost of war and failure to defeat the rebels, started withdrawing its more than 100,000 soldiers in mid-May.

All are scheduled to leave by Feb 15 next year under United Nations-mediated accords signed between Afghanistan and Pakistan in April.

For guerrillas watching the Russians leave, the withdrawal is all the more sweet, knowing they have fought the enemy well with the enemy's prize weapon.

Accurate

The rebels say they prefer the Kalakov to the AK-47 — either the Soviet-made firearm or the more common Chinese-made copy supplied to the rebels through Pakistan.

Only about one in 10 captured rifles is a Kalakov, a weapon noted for its accurate fire, say guerrillas.

Military analysts said that until the early 1980s, little was known about the gun which fires a 5.45 mm calibre bullet — smaller than the AK-47's 7.62 mm.

Western small-arms experts have in the last decade tested some of the Kalakovs and found them to be more effective than the AK-47 in sustained automatic firing.

Unlike other assault rifles which tend to give a strong recoil and force the barrel upwards, the

Kalakov has little recoil and can be held on target without difficulty, the experts said.

The authoritative Jane's Infantry Weapons Guide says the secret lies in its special muzzle which helps prevent the rifle barrel from "climbing" during automatic fire.

Jane's says the Soviet Union, which generally provides less arms training for its troops than Western nations, places more stress on automatic fire than carefully-aimed single shots.

The Kalakov, which weighs about 3.6 kg (eight pounds), can be fired with a 30- or 40-round magazine. It has an effective range of 500 metres (yards).

The advantages of the weapon have not been lost on the guerrilla mujahideen fighters.

Hill

The rebels have mostly hit enemies and installations in swift guerrilla raids conducted by small groups of soldiers using rifles or rocket-propelled grenades.

Despite the use of larger weapons such as mortars, rockets and US-made Stinger missiles which have been successful against Soviet aircraft, the guerrillas generally emphasise attacks by the humble but determined foot soldier.

"We have a saying: 'It is the rifleman who finally conquers the peak.' The Kalakov is worth its weight in gold for us," said guerrilla Sayeed Kanim.

EVENTS

TV CORNER

Football on KTV

THIS week, Kuwait Television will show Arab Cup from Amman, Jordan and the Australian Bicentennial Football. The Australian football matches are as follows:
July 9, Saturday: Australia vs Saudi Arabia
July 10, Sunday: Argentina vs Brazil
July 13, Wednesday: Brazil vs Saudi Arabia
July 14, Thursday: Australia vs Argentina
The Arab Cup matches are on July 10, Sunday (1815 to 2015 GMT); July 12, Tuesday (1400 to 1600 GMT); July 14 and Thursday (1400 to 1600 GMT).
Either recorded replays or live matches will be broadcast on either KTV1 or KTV2. Watch KTV for timings.

This week on KTV 2

SUNDAY
6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Cartoons
6.30 3-2-1 Contact: This series is about various means of communication including telephones and computer systems.
7.00 Understanding Islam: Weekly talk on Islamic philosophy, hosted by Arafat Al Ashi.
7.30 Valerie: "The Way We're Not". Valerie has a difference of opinion with her husband about bringing up kids.
8.00 News in English
8.40 The Flying Doctors: "Some Special". A pair of fresh-faced, clean-cut young medics ply their trade in the Australian outback. Dr Tom Callaghan contemplates a move while Dr Chris Randall has other things on her mind. Starring: Liz Burch and Andrew McFarlane.
9.30 My Two Dads: Nicole finds herself with two warring parents — Michael and Joe. In this episode, they disagree over the best place for Nicole to stay.
10.00 Hilary's World of Adventure: Sports action from New Zealand where one daring young man attempts mountain climbing and another takes part in a car rally.
10.30 Best-Seller: "A Perfect Spy". Part two of best-seller, based on John le Carré's novel.
10.40 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

MONDAY
6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Cartoons
6.30 The Craft of the Potter: "Hands Making". A look at the potter's wheel and the art of making pottery.
7.00 Revving report: Weekly roundup of world news and regional events.
7.30 The Deck Factory: "Call Me Responsible". Comedy.
8.00 News in English
8.40 Miami Vice: "French Twist". Typical vice fare with an armed man hijacking a drug consignment from a group of Frenchmen.
9.30 Private Benjamin: "Gone with the Jeep". Judy gets into another scrape — this time she is lost in the jungle.
10.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents: "Prism". A neat package of death, planned by a woman, baffles the police.
10.30 The Equaliser: "Inner View". A woman who foretells the future is arrested for her alleged involvement in a crime. Starring: Edward Woodward.
11.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown
TUESDAY
6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Rubik's cartoon series
6.30 Chocky: Matthew Gore, a 12-year-old, finds himself behaving strangely, his parents realise they are dealing with someone who identifies himself as Chocky. But who is Chocky?
7.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown



The Flying Doctors, 8.40 pm on Sunday.

7.00 The Australian Ark: "North of Capricorn". Wildlife north of the equator.
8.00 News in English
8.30 You and the Law: local programme
8.50 Magnum: "People vs Orphil Wright". Wright is on the wrong side of the law. Will Magnum prove his innocence? Starring: Tom Selleck.
9.30 Less Fancieus de Marguerite: French series about aviation. Tonight's episode examines the developments in 1896.
10.00 Perfect Strangers: "My Lips Are Sealed". Larry insists on confidentiality and Balki takes him too seriously...
10.30 Movie Night: "Boom to the Moon". A soldier has two options: jail on a murder charge or boom to the moon.
12.08 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown
WEDNESDAY
6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Inspector Gadget: cartoons
6.30 The Kids of Degrassi Street: "Noel Buys a Suit". Noel wants to assert his independence.
7.00 Computers in Control: "Making Sense of the Real World". How computers are used to control traffic.
7.30 Growing Pains: "Taking Care of Business". Mike takes a job despite his parent's warning.
8.40 O'Hara: "The Underworld". A burglar's assault a girl. O'Hara

vows to find them. Thriller.
9.30 Edge of Life: "Against the Odds". Medicine. A look at care of premature infants in British hospitals.
10.00 Sledge Hammer: "Vertical". Sledge has a phobia of heights; he is in a dilemma when he has to rescue a friend trapped in a lighthouse.
10.30 L.A. Law: the much acclaimed series about the workings of an L.A. law firm; the personal and professional triumphs of lawyers.
11.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown
THURSDAY
6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Bionic Six: cartoons
6.30 Sesame Street: an educational series for young viewers
7.30 Full House: "Our Very First Night". An uncle baby-sits for father, who is working night shifts.
8.00 News in English
8.40 High Mountain Ranges: cowboy capers of three escaped prisoners on the run.
9.30 I Married Dora: "My Parents are Coming". Peter and Dora are married; and when the parents visiting, they have to re-arrange their bedrooms. Starring: Daniel Hugh Kelly, Henry Jones, Juliette Lewis, Jason Horst and Elizabeth Pena.
10.00 Hit Squad: candid camera and practical jokes.

10.30 Late Night Movie: "Mistress of Paradise". Claptrap drama about the turbulent love affair between a wealthy Northern heiress and a sophisticated Louisiana plantation owner.
12.20 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown
FRIDAY
2.00 Holy Quran
2.10 Cartoons
2.30 Sports Studio
6.00 Foo Fur: cartoons
6.30 The Bay City Rollers Show: songs, music and sketches are featured in this variety show.
7.00 Walt Disney Films: "The Adventures of Pollyanna". Gossip abounds about the evil spirits inhabiting Jane's house. Jane is expelled from the village.
8.00 News in English
8.30 Summer '88
8.50 Beauty and the Beast: "Promises of Somebody". Vincent's father returns after 25 years... Starring: Linda Hamilton, Ron Perlman.
9.40 227: "Temptations". Mary is organising a charity ball — and Sandra selects the guests... comedy.
10.00 Guinness Book of World Records
10.30 Wiseguy: "Date With an Angel". Vinnie is told not to testify before a congress committee. Starring Ken Wahl.
11.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.00 Holy Quran
9.15 Good Morning
9.30 Space Adventure: cartoon serial
10.15 Thamar Al Shok: Arabic serial, featuring Abdul Munim Madbouli, Rashwan Tawfik, Fatima Tabae.
11.15 Abilahu Munira: Arabic serial, starring Khalid Al Nafisi, Muna Jabar, Saad Ardash, Dawood Hussein, Mohammad Al Man'a
12.15 Alf Ba' Al Matbakh: a programme on Arabic cooking.
1.00 News Summary
1.05 World News via Satellite
2.00 Songs and Music
2.35 Fursan Al Hikmah: Arabic serial. Part One. "Al Ikhtiyar Al Sa'b".
3.35 Bill and Sebastian: cartoons
4.20 Hikayat Al Ayyam Al Aseebah: Starring Khalil Shawki, Yusuf Al Aami, Suad Abdullah.
7.00 Noor Al Islam: prepared and presented by Ahmad Abdul Qadir
7.20 Nazrat Al Alam
7.50 Security and Citizens: presented by Ahmed Sharqawi.
8.15 Himaat Al Watan: part one of weekly local serial.
9.00 News in Arabic



Jameson Parker and Gerald McRaney play Simon and Simon, 8.40 pm on KTV2 tonight.

10.00 Naar wa Dukhan: daily Arabic serial starring Kamal Shinnawi, Shirhan, Mustafa Fahmi, Ahmad Badr.
10.50 Al Liqa Al Thani: weekly Arabic serial; "Al Buroosh"; starring Badi, Mahmoud Yassin, Mohammad Khairi.
11.45 News Summary
11.50 World News via Satellite

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Duck tales: "Three Ducks of the Con-"



Alf with his TV family in "Prime Time", tonight at 7.30 pm on KTV2.

dor." New Disney cartoon series for young viewers about the adventures of Donald Duck.
6.30 God's Wonderful Railway: Part 2. A young man is encouraged to study.
7.00 Survival: "Lure of the Falcon". A look at falconry in the UK.
7.30 Alf: "Prime Time". Alf shows a keen interest in television...
8.00 News in English
8.40 Simon and Simon: "Baja, Humbug". A Mexican businessman hires the Simon brothers to transport contraband cargo. Starring: Gerald McRaney, Jameson Parker.
9.30 Beyond 2000: a documentary on the new technology and scientific advances.
10.30 Made-for-TV Movie
11.30 News in Brief
11.40 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

English

Morning
0800 Opening
0802 Songs and Music
0830 News
0840 Songs and Music
0845 Daily Programme
0900 Cultural Horizon
0930 Reggae Rock
1000 Our Press Today
1005 Songs and Music
1000 The Years of Pops
1100 Closedown

Evening
2100 Opening
2102 Songs and Music
2130 News
2145 Point of View
2155 Songs and Music
2200 Kuwait in a Week
2215 Rock On
2245 Daily Programme
2300 Strictly Romantic
2330 Amazing Facts
2400 Closedown

FM Services

0830 Easy Listening
0830 News
0840 Easy Listening
1000 Songs and Music
1300 Easy Listening
1330 News
1400 Classical Music
1600 Easy Listening
1700 Spanish Hour
1800 Pops
2130 News
2145 Pops
2200 Indian Classical Hour
2300 Easy Listening
2400 Instrumental Music
0200 Closedown

BBC World Services

0600 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Radio Newsworld
30 Personal View
45 Recording of the Week
0100 News Summary followed by Outlook
30 Guitar Workshop
45 Nature Notebook
0200 World News
09 British Press Review
15 Network UK (ex 2nd Sports-world)
30 People and Politics (ex 30th)
0300 World News
09 News about Britain
15 The World Today
30 Europe's World
45 Business Matters
0400 Newsworld
30 Here's Humphil
45 Reflections
50 Financial News
0500 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Personal View
45 The World Today
0600 Newsworld
30 Meridian
0700 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 From the Weeklies
45 Network UK (ex 2nd Sports-world)
0800 World News
09 Reflections
15 A Jolly Good Show
0900 World News
09 British Press Review
15 The World Today
30 Financial News followed by Sports Roundup
45 Personal View

1000 News Summary followed by Here's Humphil
15 Letter from America.
30 People and Politics (ex 30th)
1100 World News
09 News about Britain
15 The A-Z of Hollywood (ex 2nd and 23rd Sportsworld)
30 Meridian
1200 Radio Newsworld
15 Multitrack 3
45 Sports Roundup
1300 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary (ex 2nd sports-world)
30 Network UK (ex 2nd)
45 Sportsworld inc
1400 News Summary
1500 Radio Newsworld
15 Sportsworld
1600 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Sportsworld
1700 World News
09 World
15 The Ken Bruce Show
45 Sports Roundup
1800 Newsworld
30 The 2nd play of the week: Quartermaine's Terms; 9th and 10th Great British Concert Hall; 23rd and 30th Prom Concert
ALL TIMES GMT

Urdu

1900 Opening
1910 Belterzen Qaul
1916 Programme Preview
1920 Songs
1935 Press Report
1940 Juizah
2000 News
2020 Songs
2040 Dhana
2100 Closedown

SUNDAY
10.15 Thamar Al Shok: daily Arabic serial, featuring Abdul Munim Madbouli, Rashwan Tawfik, Fatima Tabae, Ahsan Al Qalawi.
12.15 Hardcastle and McCormick: Starring: Brian Keith. English serial.
2.30 Fursan Al Hikmah: local serial. Part two. "Al Ikhtiyar Al Saab". Islamic story.
4.15 Kalimah Al Sar: Arabic feature film. Starring: Noor Al Shariff, Laila Alwi, Hassan Mustafa, Sharifa Maher.
6.00 Al Jawharah: a series for children, featuring Abdul Munim Ibrahim, Mohammad Dafarawi, Wafa Shihab, Huda Essa.
10.30 Late Night Variety Show: A Night with Sherazad... Prepared and presented by Amal Abdullah.

MONDAY
10.00 Songs and Music

KTV 1 weekly highlights

11.15 Abilahu Munira: part five of daily local serial featuring Khalid Al Nafisi, Muna Wasef.
12.15 Treasures of the Gulf: documentary on marine life in Gulf waters.
4.15 Football: replay of Holland vs Russia, played for the 1988 European Cup.
7.50 Wa Qalat Al Arab: What the Arabs said.
10.45 Mo'ad Gharrah: Arabic feature film, featuring Abdul Halim Hafiz, Faten Hamama, Imad Hamdi, Rushdi Abaza.
TUESDAY
12.15 Silver Spoon: English serial.
2.30 Wamrat Al Ayyam: Arabic series, featuring Juliet Awad, Rubi Safadi, Susan Saleh, Iman Kamel.
4.15 Naar Tabat Al Ramada: Arabic play, starring Khalid Zaki, Ibrahim Khan, Faeza Kamal, Imad Rashad, Social.
7.05 The World About Us: documentary
10.45 Film Min Kitab: presented by Durriya Sharf Al Din. This episode focuses on the film "Halaq Darb Al Fuqara". Guests are writer Yusuf Fustat and director Mohammad Rikab.
WEDNESDAY
12.15 Shabab Wa Riyada: "People and Sports". Weekly local show on sports in Kuwait.
4.15 Like Father Like Son: English feature film.
6.00 Bondaq Wa Bondaqah: Children's serial, featuring Abdul Rahman Abu Zahra, Liza.
8.30 Folklore: focusses on Arab and Kuwaiti folklore.
10.45 Hikayat Min Al Badiyah: "Addoha". Starring: Miyad Awad, Antonette Najeeb, Ashraf Abaza.
THURSDAY
12.15 International Circus.
1.50 Fawazir Al Mamasabat: featuring Yahya Fakhrani, Sabirin, Hala Fuad.
4.15 The Saint: Roger Moore plays debonair detective Simon Templar.
10.00 Al Baqiya La Taati: Arabic feature film, starring: Yusuf Shaban, Shahira, Salah Qabil, Mimi Jamal.
11.45 Late Night Variety Show: directed by Ghafil Fadel.
FRIDAY
10.15 Al Sajf Al Mafkoud: Children's serial, starring Abdul Aziz Al Haddad, Ahmad Hazeem, Ali Al Mufeedi, Awatif Mohammad.
2.30 Hadith Deeni: religious talk by Sheikh Mohammad Mutwali Sharawi.
3.30 The Agreement: Hindi feature film, starring Rekha. A strong-willed woman enters into a marriage pact to inherit her father's property.
7.30 A Seminar on Islamic Philosophy: "The Rights of Man". Presented by Ahmad Faraj. Guests are Dr Ahmad Kamal Abu Majid, Dr Qotob Mohammad Taballa and Dr Saleem Al Awa.
8.25 Kul Al Funoon: focus on arts in the Arab World, directed by Samir Shariadah.
9.50 Wrestling.
10.45 Naseeb: ep. 7, weekly Arabic serial, featuring Mohammad Jaber, Maryam Saleh, Abdullah Al Jabil, Khalil Ismael. Produced by Kuwait Television. Directed by Mohammad Abdus Salam.

WHAT'S ON

CINEMA

British Council
The Elephant Man, a feature film, will be shown on July 9 and 10, 6.30 pm. Superbly photographed in black and white, it is an unforgettable amalgam of images in the style of 19th century pioneer photography which develops with the story of emotional intensity. Admission is free but it is advisable to reserve seats. Tel: 2515512; 2533204; 2533227.

ARTS

Tareq Rajab Museum
The museum in Jabriya houses a collection of Islamic arts, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world. Summer timings are 9am to 12noon and 4 to 7 pm, Sat thru Thurs On Friday the museum is open only in the mornings.
Islamic Arts Museum
The museum, located on Arab Gulf Street, is open from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm and 4.30 to 7.30 pm, Saturday to Thursday. Some of the finest Islamic art objects are on show.

German Painting Exhibition
A 10-day exhibition of German paintings will be held at the Kuwait Hilton Hotel from July 10. More than 30 paintings, representing the work of a group of German artists known as The Blue Rider, will be shown in the Hilton's lobby. The show has been organised by the German embassy in Kuwait.

SOCIAL

German-speaking Cultural Association
The regular coffee mornings for ladies will continue on a small scale during the summer months. Coffee morning will be held on Sunday, August 7 at Kuwait Hilton's La Patisserie from 10 am on those days. All German-speaking women are welcome.
D'Aseles Association
The association will hold a social evening cum entertainment on August 11 at Messilah Beach Hotel. The event is part of the 40th anniversary of Indian independence. Top Ranks and Next of Kin will be in attendance. For details contact Leena — 2469811, 9.30 am to 5 pm; Henry 3291909 am, 3717346 (pm) or Augustin 5746734, after 6 pm.

Onam Festival
The Theatres, Abbasia, will celebrate Onam on Aug 25 at the Indian Arts Circle. IAC President M. Mathews will be the chief patron. The programme comprises Onam songs, Mohiniyattam, classical dances, Thiruvathirakkali, folk dances, light music, one-act play, boat race and Kerala rural arts. Those interested in taking part contact Lazar Varghese — 4314511; Thomas Pereumpilly — 4810490 ext. 207; Varghese Paradayil — 2422973.

Y.M.C.A.
The Y.M.C.A. will present the "Come September Ball" at the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel on September 1. Highlights include the selection of the Queen of Queens. Top Ranks will be in attendance.
Summer Belle 88
The United Goans Centre will hold their annual Summer Belle 88 contest on August 11 at the SAS Hotel's The Tent. The gala event marks the 10th anniversary of UGC. Entertainment includes music by Stepping Stones and City Limits. For further details contact Tony Gonsalves 2612024 or Joe Fernandes 5655140.

HOTELS

At the SAS
Al Bustan and the Lobby Bar are featuring strawberry creations, such as strawberry meringue, a meringue bowl filled with fresh strawberries, a vanilla ice cream scoop and whipped cream. Fresh strawberry, served plain, also featured. The promotion continues until July 14.
At the Meridien
La Brasserie offers breakfast, lunch and dinner daily, featuring buffet or a la carte.
Al Waha features melon promotion, offering watery, juicy and refreshing melon delights, until July 15.
Beat the summer heat with cool juices offered in the lobby lounge; musical entertainment is provided in the evenings.
At the Sheraton
Italian hospitality is provided in the Riccardo Restaurant. Dine in the restaurant with music by the Sienna Duo. The Riccardo is also open for lunch during the week.
Al Hambra offers authentic Lebanese cuisine every Sunday nights; on Wednesday the restaurant features a choice of seafood specialities; every evening the Lords provide entertainment.

At the Hilton
La Palma has introduced a new 10-day lunch and dinner buffet cycle featuring a variety of Arabic and international dishes, soups, mezzes, salads and desserts to suit all tastes. Open daily from 6.30 am to midnight.
Beat the summer heat at the La Patisserie, offering ice cream creations, fresh fruit juice and fruit cocktail creations. Open daily from 10.30 am to 10.45 pm. In the evenings, listen to piano music played by the in-house pianist Richard.
At the Continental
The Gardenia, opens from 7 am to midnight, offers dinner buffet on Thursdays; the buffet features grilled specialities. The Friday lunch features Indian, Arab and Continental cuisine. The Darbar offers an Indian buffet lunch daily except Fridays and a la carte for dinner.
At the Holiday Inn
Melon promotion featuring cool melon slices is being held at the hotel, until July 15. Al Ahmadi Coffee Shop offers Continental and Arabic buffets for breakfast, lunch and dinner from 6 am to 1 am; a la carte also offered.

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Laila Al Kabd Ala Bakaiza: Wa Zaghloul (Arabic)
Starring: Suhair Babli, Issad Yunus
Al Salmiya
Police Academy IV
Al Hambra
La Min Sha' Wa La Min Dara (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam, Iman, Maadi Zayed
Drive In
Al Marazah Wal Kanoon (Arabic)

Starring: Farouk Fishawi, Sherihan
Al Firdous
Mera Gaon Mera Desh (Hindi)
Starring: Dharmendra, Vinod Khanna, Asha Parekh
Fahaeel Open-Air
Sarfarosh (Hindi)
Al Fahaeel
Unnikale Oru Katha Parayam (Malayalam)
Al Jahra
To Burn the Sun
Granada
Callan
Sulaibikhat
Aad Liyantaqam (Arabic)
Al Jeeb
Kathakku Pinnil (Malayalam)
Ahmadi Drive-In
Slipper and the Rose

PRAYERS

Fajr 3.22 am
Zuhr 11.53
Asr 3.27 pm
Maghreb 6.51
Isha 8.21

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Chanem Pharmacy
nr. Carlton, Fahad Al Salem St.
Al Loola Pharmacy
nr. Dasman Complex, Ahmad Al Jaber St.
Hawalli and Nugra
Al Andalus Pharmacy
Tunis St.
Salimiya and Rumalithiya
Ibn Nafis Pharmacy
Hmoud Khalifa Al Hamidi Bldg., Ahmed Al Jaber St.
Fahaeel and Ahmadi
Abu Halifa Pharmacy
Coast St.
Farwaniya
Al Jazira Pharmacy
Hmoud Sanwan Rashidi Bldg., Main St.
Jahra
Al Noor Pharmacy
Abdul Aziz Nasrullah Bldg., Matafi St.

MUSIC

By Judy Byrne

HUNKY singer George Michael may be one of the world's sexiest singers... but if he doesn't watch out he could also be one of the quietest.

For George is just the latest in the long line of pop superstars who have had voice problems.

His current 150-date world tour, expected to gross a staggering £35,000,000, has been plagued by throat troubles, despite a four-hour-a-week fitness regime designed specially to keep him in shape.

He even hired a £10,000,000 villa near Cannes in the South of France for the European section of the tour so he could fly back each night by helicopter to ensure plenty of rest.

But it didn't seem to help. He had to cancel four concerts on the Australian leg of the tour and even that wasn't the end of it. The 24-year-old singer found himself having to take another two weeks off in Europe.

Doctors told him it was the only way to protect the voice that has already earned him £50,000,000. And the ex-Wham! star admits he hates the whole gruelling business of touring anyway.

He says: "I hate travelling, the business of being on the road, being protected. You have to stay with it when all you want to do is go home and forget what you do for a living."

For these days it seems the strain of staying at No. 1 can hit a bad chord... especially in a top pop star's throat.

And when their voice is their fortune it can be particularly worrying.

The silent fear has struck an illustrious line-up... including Alison Moyet, Paul Young, Rod Stewart, Elton John, Terence Trent D'Arby and Annie Lennox.

D'Arby

Even topless model Sam Fox's cross-over career into music has suffered. Her assault on the top of the pops suffered a setback when doctors discovered she had nodules growing on her vocal chords.

Pop idol Terence Trent D'Arby is risking the permanent ruin of his voice according to his former singing teacher.

D'Arby, 25, has had a meteoric rise in a year that has brought him a string of awards. The Florida-born, British-

raised singer has been flavour of the year on both sides of the Atlantic.

His name has been linked with a string of loves including Patsy Kensit and Bob Geldof's wife, Paula Yates. But the good life could stop for the singer who claims to be bonking crazy, says Sally Oldfield who gave him singing lessons.

Sally, whose brother is Tubular bells star, Mike, prepared Terence for his first album. She says she tried to warn him he was straining his voice "but it all got a bit fiery towards the end and Terence ended up storming out."

"Anyone straining his voice the way he does is in danger of developing nodules."

Nodules are non-malignant growths on the vocal chords caused by over-using the voice. Pop singers are particularly vulnerable since few have had the long professional training of classical musicians in getting maximum carrying power from minimum physical effort.

Smoking and drinking make the danger even greater. So does touring.

Rapid climate changes and show-a-day schedules are hell for untrained vocal chords too. Yet nodules are not painful — except on the pocket. Persistent or recurring hoarseness or voice loss is a tell-tale sign of their voice. They may go away untreated if a singer is prepared not to sing or even speak above a whisper for several months.

Stewart

Or they may not. By doing nothing the sufferer risks permanent hoarseness or voice change. So the usual treatment is surgery — followed by a nervous wait to see how the voice shapes up after it. The quality can be altered. And singers are more prone to throat infections after the operation.

But it can have a happy ending — as it did for Rod Stewart. Back in 1977, the year he split up with live-in love Britt Ekland, the 43-year-old singer had nodules cut from his larynx.

He never looked back — in the career stakes. He went on to have a string of hits with audiences that spanned two generations. Now he says: "I don't want to be a sex symbol any more. I'm through my mid-life crisis. I just want to be recognised for making good music. I want to make mature music."

Painful silence

And marriage. After his divorce from first wife, Alana, he decided he was ready to take the plunge again with 26-year-old model Kelly Emberg, mother of his daughter, Ruby.

Rod says: "If George Michael wants to take over the sex symbol crown he can. I've given all that up."

George could never have guessed the reality behind the glamour when he went to his first-ever pop concert 11 years ago to hear Elton John. The two are friends now. And when Elton had to have an operation in Australia for nodules last year, George was one of the first people he heard from.

Elton

George, who has sung backing vocals on a couple of Elton's singles, sent him 100 red roses. And Elton, who is 41, was the first to sympathise with George's recent plight. He says the tour organisers had packed in too many gigs.

Elton, who learned the hard way — he did a similar trip to the United States in 1982 — says: "Touring can be very stressful. They have taken the love out of it for him and when your enjoyment has gone it is a nightmare."



Rod Stewart: 'If George Michael wants to take over the sex symbol crown he can. I've given all that up'.

But the show-must-go-on ethic is strong in him, too. He postponed his throat operation for weeks rather than disappoint his fans. He hid how serious it was at first. Then, when he did see a specialist, he insisted on singing on.

That meant weeks of suspense before he was reassured that the nodules were not malignant. And weeks more to see if his voice would mend. But even his voice problems were shadowed by the events in 1987. Allegations about drugs and rent boys and a marriage crisis combined to make the year he would least like to go through again.

The bad times seem to be behind him now. He and wife, Renate, are together again as he gives a high priority to making the marriage work. And he is back in the charts with his latest single, I Don't Wanna Go On With You Like That.

Paul Young has not had such success since his voice gave him problems. He has had only one big hit, Every Time You Go Away, since four months of enforced idleness and a cancelled tour caused by throat trouble in 1984.

These days, the 31-year-old singer who admits "I perfor-

med my first tour on sheer adrenalin," works hard at being fit enough to take performing in his stride. He works out or runs every day.

He says: "It does get harder over 30. I have to work twice as hard to do half as much."

Multi-millionaire Young has also been investing more heavily in his private life. He has married 22-year-old Stacey Smith after four stormy years together and now they have a daughter, Levi.

Lennox

Annie Lennox, 31-year-old mother-to-be and sexy singer of the Eurythmics, had treatment for nodules in Switzerland in 1983. She hoped that would be the end of it. But two years later, she was in trouble again.

She said: "I have damaged my voice through excessive use."

With a world tour on the horizon, she decided on the advice of her Paris specialist to go on a silent holiday. The nightmare extended to an 18-month career break only two years after she had a nervous breakdown over the break-up of her relationship with Eurythmics partner Dave Stewart.

But by the end of 1986 she was on a sell-out world tour that put her firmly back in the limelight. And she has found personal happiness, too. She is living in Paris with film-maker

Uri Fruchtmann.

Annie whose last hit was I Need A Man, and who has been talking for years about yearning for a baby, could not be happier.

Alison Moyet was slightly luckier. She had a throat problem last year, but carried on with American concerts against doctor's orders. In the end she had to give in.

Moyet, 26, cancelled concerts in Washington and Toronto after losing her voice completely and suffering sleepless nights with throat pain. For a time, there were fears that she might have to cancel UK shows, too.

But all is now well with the singer who has made the big time despite her refusal to play the big star.

"Fame is nothing to be proud of," she says. "I sing because I like singing, not because I want everyone to recognise me."

Fox

Sam Fox, who became a celebrity by slipping out of her clothes, is less shy. At 22, she has already had a successful career as a topless model that began when her mother paid for hair streaks for her 15th birthday. Then entered a Polaroid picture of her in suspenders in a beauty contest.

She won. The prize was a session with a top glamour photographer, Samantha Fox was on her way.

But already she is preparing for the day when gravity starts to take its toll on her largest assets. Acting, for which she had hopes, went on to the back burner while she made a bid for musical glory.

And it worked, too. Her single, Naughty Girls Need Love, Too, made it into the charts in the United States, with a little bit of help from a TV video complete with steamy love scenes.

Then she was told her strained and cracked voice has resulted in nodules on her vocal chords. She had them removed in a London hospital.

She said: "I was more worried than I admitted at the time. It was the speed they whipped me in the day after they examined me. I thought it might have been cancer."

It was not. And the doctors have pronounced her vocal chords fighting fit again. Samantha Fox has proved another of the lucky ones.



Kylie in the kitchen.

From a land down under

By Jane Oddy

ALL it takes is one flashing smile from the bubbling, blue-eyed blonde and men start falling on her like summer rain...

At 19, Kylie Minogue has the kind of natural beauty that has the world beating a path to her door.

She's Australia's golden girl of pop and TV — managing to combine a worldwide hit record with a major role in the smash soap Neighbours.

As record producer Mike Stock says: "Her appeal is universal. She's everything every young girl wants to be — bright, fresh and cheerful."

Despite the dizzy success, Kylie remains the same unspoilt Melbourne teenager she was before being catapulted into the limelight.

Kylie is refreshingly unspoiled and home-loving. She drives an old banger and still lives with her parents even though she recently bought a two-bedroomed house in a Melbourne suburb.

She says: "If anyone had told me that in a few years time I'd have a number one single, I would have said 'no way'."

"I could never imagine all this happening to me!" But she quickly adds: "It has crossed my mind that I could be getting over-exposed at the moment but I'm letting things take their course — I could be a

nobody tomorrow!"

That seems unlikely with the way Kylie's career is going. A disco record, Got To Be Certain, is soaring up the charts and in July her first album is released in Europe.

Her No. 1 British hit, I Should Be So Lucky, is heading up the US charts and is top in nine countries, including Sweden and New Zealand, selling 1.5 million copies.

Her record producer Mike Stock is convinced Kylie has the musical gifts to go on to greater success.

Mike says: "Fashions move so quickly but she really sticks at it. She has the talent to be one of the great entertainers of the world. Kylie has got a great voice."

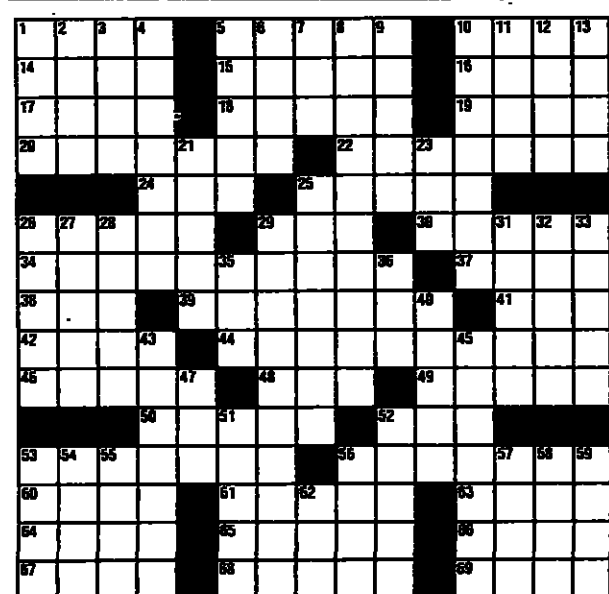
Mike flew to Melbourne earlier this year to record Got To Be Certain. And he reveals that there's a tough side to the 5-ft tall star.

He and Kylie disagreed violently about the content of her new album — and he had to throw her singing coach out of the recording studio.

Mike says: "You can't be taught to sing. You've either got it or you haven't — and she has!"

The 10-track album is a produced and written by the Stock-Aitken-Waterman team, with the exception of the remake of the Little Eva classic, Locomotion.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Too bad!
 - Muffler
 - Buddies
 - Enjoy
 - Reed weaver
 - Hautboy
 - , the Red
 - Sultan's decree
 - Phonetically smooth
 - Site of King Arthur's palace
 - Charged with gas
 - Spanish gentleman
 - Zeal
 - Slender candle
 - Sort
 - Records
 - Moves the furniture again
 - Get out!
 - Food scrap
 - Ancient Jewish monastics
 - A long time
 - Breakwater
 - Resembling a narrow band
 - Weird
 - Disenumber
 - William —, New England botanist
 - Neighbor of Venice
 - Plant pouch
 - Propriety
 - "The — Falcon"
 - Abbreviations on street maps
 - Fusible substance
 - A son of Jacob: Var.
 - Portable shelter
 - Concerning
 - Peter or Paul
 - Comedian Johnson
- DOWN**
- Lingers
 - Slippery creatures
 - A Waugh
 - Italian coin
 - Character actor
 - Tamiroff
 - Withdrawer
 - Descendant
 - Small wheeled vehicle
 - Collection of sayings
 - Dimmed again
 - Released
 - North star
 - Incite
 - Before Ranger or Eagle
 - Future flower
 - Memorable
 - actor Peter —
 - Curtain holder
 - Country in NW Africa
 - Figure of speech
 - Eagle's nest
 - Eltonian's father
 - Tuba or trumpet
 - Arab chieftain
 - 32 TV personality
 - Alistair —
 - Units of loudness
 - Onager
 - Red or Black
 - Danish toast
 - Verbal sally
 - Esters of lactic acid
 - Spike of corn
 - Author of "The Three Musketeers"
 - Tars
 - Computer input
 - For or where
 - Part of a dollar
 - Large number
 - Being: Lat.
 - Close tightly
 - Goes wrong
 - London repast

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

LEVIS SUPER GAS
OTIC IRIDE CENT
WASHINGTON OTTOE
STEELES TARTAN
MOSS PADDY
DECENT MALAISE
EMU AESTIR RABAT
MIND RANCH LUTE
ETNAS BONEA ROD
SIMILES ALIGNS
NADER TRON
BUGGED BATISTIES
ASHE GERMANTOWN
BEAD ERIAN ARIA
ARM SNERD LIIS

GOREN BRIDGE

By Charles Goren and Omar Sharif

TAKE BOTH CHANCES

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ Q 7 6 2
♥ A K 3
♦ K 9 8
♣ 6 3 2

WEST
♠ 10 5 4
♥ Q J 10 9
♦ 7 4
♣ 10 9 8 7

EAST
♠ K J 9 8 3
♥ 8 5 2
♦ 6 5 2
♣ J 4

SOUTH
♠ A
♥ 7 6 4
♦ A Q J 10 3
♣ A K Q 5

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

3 NT Pass 4 ♠ Pass

4 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♣

No matter how straightforward a

hand seems, always take time before

playing to the first trick to decide on

what line you want to adopt. A little

planning can never do any harm.

The auction was straightforward.

Once North had agreed diamonds as

trumps, South's bid of four spades

was a cue-bid—with any sort of

spade tolerance, South would have

bid three spades at his third turn

rather than three no trump. North

needed no more encouragement to shoot for the slam bonus.

As soon as dummy appeared, declarer's problem was obvious. He had an unavoidable loser in hearts, so the contract hinged on not losing a club as well. There would be little difficulty if clubs split 3-3, but that was against the odds. As long as trumps were no worse than 3-2, declarer found a way to protect against the possibility of East being short in clubs and holding the long diamond.

He won the first trick with the king of hearts, crossed to the ace of clubs and then reentered dummy with a trump to the eight. Next came a club, so that if East were to ruff, he would be ruffing declarer's low club not a winner. When East followed, South played the king from hand and won the trick.

He crossed back to the table with the king of trumps and led another club, and East was a dead duck. If he ruffed, declarer would follow low from hand and later discard the board's heart loser on the queen of clubs. That would permit South to ruff his heart loser in dummy. So East discarded, but that proved to be equally futile. Declarer won the queen and ruffed his last club in dummy, and the heart was his only loser.



"He's not house-trained, but who cares?"

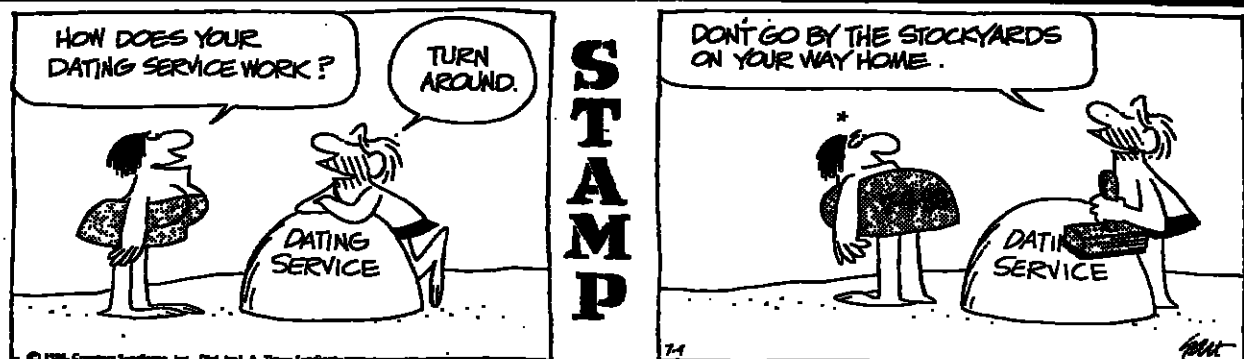
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Bram Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

There will tend to be a little confusion and you should do your best to dispose of it. Try to be a little less aggressive. You should concede that you are not always going to be right. Be frank.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

A frank discussion will help you to clear up a misunderstanding. You should not let anything stand in the way of achieving closer harmony with your partner. Do not be in too much of a hurry but do not be indolent either. Be moderate.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

You will be able to get things done today but you must not think solely of yourself. You should do all you can to stay in good health. Try to be a little more receptive to new ideas. Be tactful.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

You should make sure you get enough rest, but that does not mean lazing the day away. You should beware of making a promise that would be hard to carry out. Do not allow some small setback to prey on your mind. Be less solemn.



Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)

The situation is a little better than first appeared to be the case. You should not spend so much time on your worry about your future security of existence. Avoid eating more than you need to maintain your current weight.



Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)

You are a little too liable to believe all you hear or all you would like to be the chase. Your private life is not all that you would like it to be but you will be able to do something about it.



Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)

You will tend to allow your imagination to lead you astray. You should not spend too much time on your own nor should you allow your social life to become too hectic. Keep your wits very much about you. Be tolerant.



Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

You should make sure you do not lose touch with an old friend of yours. You should bear in mind that those small expenses added together amount to be a considerable sum.



Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

You should not attempt to do too many things all at once nor should you idle the day away. Do all that needs to be done to maintain harmony with your partner.



Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan 19)

You will be better able to devote yourself to a personal matter which needs attending to. Now is not the right time to gamble or to take any inordinate financial risks. You should pay a little more attention to your personal appearance.



Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

You will be better able to do something you have long wanted to do. You will not be able to persuade others to behave precisely as you would like them to. You will have to be a little more patient just now. Be cordial.



Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)

You should be prepared to make some changes. You will have something to be really pleased about. Make sure you do not become obsessed about something that is no more than a hobby.

By Oei Eng Goan

JAKARTA, (Reuters): An award from a group of US writers has plunged one of Indonesia's best-known novelists into new controversy, with demands that all copies of his latest book be burnt.

Pramoedya Ananta Toer, who spent 14 years in internment without trial, was in April given a \$3,000 "Freedom to Write" award from the US branch of the International PEN Organisation which campaigns for writers' liberty.

The award seems to have prompted a campaign against Pramodya by a small group linked to Indonesia's ruling Golkar Party. They have denounced his latest book, the final volume in a quartet, as communist propaganda.

The government banned the first three works in the epic on the grounds they endangered security.

Indonesian attorney general Sukatono Marmosujono says he will decide whether to ban the new work, *The Glass House*, after he has read it.

"I don't understand why Toer's fourth book can be freely on sale for the general public and am wondering if the government's authority (to ban books) has slackened," the leader of the group opposed to the book, Dolf Sopamena, told the army-backed Jakarta newspaper.

"The government should have banned 'The Glass House' as it did Toer's other works. It is obvious that the book has communist propaganda in it and can poison the minds of young people," Spamena said.

"The only means to eliminate (the threat) is to burn all copies of the book."

Prominent Indonesian columnist Rosihan Anwar said it was ironic the US Pen Award should go to a writer who was responsible for silencing Indonesian authors opposed to communism through his membership of the left-wing cultural organisation Lekra.

US award creates trouble for leftist Indonesian writer



Pramodya Ananta Toer, Indonesia's most controversial author.

In an interview the 63-year-old Pramodya denied he was a communist and said any ban on his books should be through the courts.

"I really can't understand why the government banned my works and treated me like a pariah," Pramodya said.

Jailed

"I have been jailed and exiled because of my books. I've never committed any crime," he added.

"The banning of a writer's books is like punishing the author himself. And if it is a punishment, the sentence should be given by a court of justice. I've never been brought

to court in all my life."

Indonesia, which once had the largest communist party out of power in the world, outlawed communism in 1966 after accusing the Indonesian Communist Party (PKI) of mounting a bloody coup attempt against former President Sukarno in September 1965.

About half a million suspected communists and sympathisers were slaughtered in the aftermath as elements of the military and Indonesia's Muslim majority avenged the death of six army generals killed by PKI members.

Hundreds of thousands more were imprisoned or sent to internal exile without trial.

Pramodya, one of the few Indonesian writers to win world recognition, was banished in 1965 to the remote island of Buru for his Lekra activities. He was released in 1979.

"I am not a communist and I knew nothing about the coup. I am a writer and my books are about class struggle, about nationalism and humanism," Pramodya said in his book-lined study.

"That's an interesting theme that many writers like to write about and it has nothing to do with communist propaganda."

Attorney general Sukatono Marmosujono has urged reporters not to blow Pramodya's case out of proportion.

"I will check first and later if it ('The Glass House') proved to contain communist elements, I'll have it withdrawn from public circulation," he said.

Publisher Hasyim Rahman said he had not received any government warning against publishing *The Glass House*.

"The book is on sale in many cities. Besides Jakarta, we distributed it to Jogjakarta, Bandung, Solo, and Surabaya," Rahman said.

Pramodya, born on February 6, 1925, in Biora, central Java, wrote some of his early works in a Dutch colonial prison.

During the revolutionary years, he joined the elite Silwangi division, rising to the rank of Army lieutenant before he left the military.

Many Indonesians acknowledge Pramodya as one of the country's greatest writers, and the first three works in the quartet have been published in English, Dutch and Malay. Other Pramodya works have been translated into Japanese and Chinese.

"Very few Indonesian writers can match him in depicting the characters of his novels. They are so vivid, so true to life," said a literary critic who preferred to remain anonymous.

Five volumes of dazzling insights

By Shena Mackay

KATHERINE MANSFIELD was born in Wellington, New Zealand, in 1888, and this handsome Centenary Edition has an appropriately New Zealand flavour.

Each of the five volumes of stories bears a reproduction of a painting by Frances Hodgkins and is introduced by Professor Cherry Hankin of Canterbury University, Christchurch.

The passing of time since Mansfield's tragically early death in 1923 demonstrates just how acute her psychological insights were, and how dazzling her stylistic innovations, whether she was evoking a glittering New Zealand seascape or lush garden, or writing about poverty, murderous impulses or the fear of dying.

Her first collection *In a German Pension* (1911) draws chiefly on her sojourn in the spa to which she was dispatched by her mother following her impulsive first marriage.

Its satirical portraits of her fellow guests and their feeding habits hold early intimations of her view of life as cannibalistic and predatory.

Throughout her work people, particularly men, metamorphose into dangerous animals, and she chose, revealingly, to call her fatal tuberculosis consumption.

Herein also is the tragic *Child-Who-Was-Tired* which later became a minor cause celebre, attracting accusations of plagiarism of Chekhov and threats of blackmail.

The "special prose" admired and envied by Virginia Woolf is perfected in the long story, *Prelude*, which appears in *Bliss* (1920).

Originally titled *The Aloe*, this was re-worked in fulfilment of a promise to her dead brother that she would write about their childhood, and is a barely fictionalised account of their family: the sisters, the grandmother who provided the affection lacking in an exhausted mother who had no warmth left for her children, the bluff father whom his wife viewed as a boisterous Newfoundland dog by day, and impudent beast at night.

Another unpleasant dog, a little fox terrier, appears in the guise of a French pimp in the unpurged version of *Je ne parle pas Français*, a masterly depiction of unconscious self-revelation.

The Garden Party (1922) was the last collection published in Mansfield's life-time, and contains *Prelude's* companion piece *At the Bay*.

Among its gems, which include the title story, is *The Daughters of the Late Colonel*, a compassionate and funny tale of two down-trodden, unmarried sisters which, to Mansfield's dismay, was misjudged as malicious.

Outstanding in the posthumously published *The Doves' Nest*, which contains many unfinished pieces, are *The Fly*, a chilling study of a sadistic father who has ceased to mourn his dead son, and *The Doll's House*, based on Mansfield's childhood, the flawlessly heart-breaking story of two poor children ostracised by their classmates.

The last, also posthumously published volume, *Something Childish* was compiled from stories written mostly between 1911 and 1917. The tiredness of Rosabel, a poignant evening in the life of a shop assistant, *The Woman at the Store*, a powerfully bleak story of murder in a lonely landscape, and *Poison* are all works of the imagination.

In a *German Pension* and other volumes of stories By Katherine Mansfield Centenary Edition Century Hutchinson £3.95 each

Poking fun at the fashionable reveries of American drop-outs

By Anthony Lane

IN HIS last novel, Roger's Version, John Updike turned to the Scarlet Letter for his plot. Hawthorne's triangle of characters was transposed into the claustrophobia of American collegiate life. In his new book *S*, the same novel is quoted in an epigraph, and the text bristles with allusions to it — a daughter named Pearl, a family of Prynnes. However, a closer relation would be *The Blithedale Romance*, Hawthorne's tale of a socialist commune; for *S*, also has a Utopia within its sights, an Arizona Nirvana sought by a gang of modern mystics.

S is an epistolary novel; most of the communications come from Sarah Worth, a New Englander in her forties who quits the "misty polluted East" for the dusty, spaced-out Midwest. She leaves in her wake a philandering husband, a distant daughter and a clutch of sceptical friends. Her correspondence — recorded tapes as well as letters — plots the course of her attempted enlightenment.

She arrives in Forrest, Arizona, a blank patch of desert that is home to the Shri Arhat Mandala, supreme seeker of truth and lover of cash. Under his tuition, thousands like Sarah are led to shrug off the weight of the "atrophied" Puritan theocracy, but her cheque books and take off in the general direction of bliss.

Mr Updike has been scrupulous in research. The spiritual precisions of Eastern metaphysics are unveiled with the same elegance that marked his examination of computer science in *Roger's Version*. But there his verbal inventions cultivated a certain poetic grace out of all the nodes and discs and electronic apparitions; whereas Sarah's vision of circumstances is forced into an alien terminology with no true moral grip.

The author supplies a glossary of terms; but any novel which has to bring along its own phrasebook looks dangerously lost. The Arhat, for example, is described as "this utterly calm and rather humorous man who just radiated vidya and prakhya"; intentions, the sentence starts off on home ground and just wanders off lazily into the distance.

Sarah's theft of a mystical vocabulary could have been sharply offset in letters received by her from other people; but we only hear of their com-



John Updike: Patricia stylist from Massachusetts

plaints, never read them, and so the first-person voice keeps its urgent monopoly. The narrator of *The Blithedale Romance* holds similar sway, a prerogative which has led Updike to praise the work as "nervously alive", but the liveliness here is quite overcome by nerves, as Sarah's tone jitters between the abusive, the preachy and the languid.

Uttered by her, all the glamorous Updike cadence turns prissy and unconvincing. The love scenes between Sarah and the Arhat sound like the menu at an Indian restaurant.

Mr Updike certainly wants to have sarcastic fun with the fashionable reveries of these American drop-outs; Sarah continues to worry about toothache and share investments even when she's practis-

ing heavenly athletics with the Master. He, needless to say, turns out to be a college-flunking fraud named Art Steinmetz from Watertown, Massachusetts.

But the author is, in a way, as much of a sucker as his heroine, and the book is funnier than he intended. He has always seemed faintly ashamed of his delighted virtuosity with material forms. *S* affords him the opportunity to transcend these and cast around for Platonic realities.

He is the opposite of the Arhat. The Patricia stylist from Massachusetts turns out to be a lofty mediator just brimming with vidya, and probably prakhya too.

S. by John Updike. Deutsch, 244p, £10.95.

A chilling reflection of the world we live in

By Hilary Spurling

DORIS Lessing has never been a comfortable writer. Her novels are strange, persistent, ungratifying, the tone of a mad content or cold with visionary tendencies and a touch of Cassandra thrown in. All her virtues are well to the fore in this brilliant terse hair-raising cautionary tale.

The Fifth Child is the story of a prim young couple in design or development consultancy. It is set in the commuting Home Counties, and told in the arch, exclamatory manner of a children's primer with simplified sentences, rhetorical questions and much emphatic underlining of points: "So what was it about these two that made them freaks and oddballs? It was their attitude to sex! This was the sixties!"

Harriet and David Lovatt set out to live according to the dictates of the Habitat catalogue with all that implies in the way of wholesome food, bright sturdy washable furniture, and equally wholesome morals.

Even since her first sighting shots nearly 30 years ago, in *In Pursuit of the English*, Lessing had an unerring eye for social nuances right the way down from Pseudo's Corner to London slum, squat or derelict site.

The English class system is one of her specialties. She hits off the affluent, progressive, puritanical Lovatts with impeccable aim, but, as Lessing connoisseurs will have realised, this modern Happy

Family is all set for affliction. Harriet runs into trouble with an ominous and physically agonising fifth pregnancy, described in harrowing detail.

She finally gives birth to a monster with the strength of an elephant, the intellect of a madman, the unqualified malevolence of Darth Vader. He bites his mother's nipples, bruises her breasts and kicks her belly black and blue. He kills the cat, strangles a visiting dog, and sprains the arm of a sibling, rash enough to poke its fingers through the bars of the new baby's cot.

The fond, well-meaning, child-orientated Lovatts find themselves obliged to sentence their child to what amounts to solitary confinement behind the reinforced doors and windows of a locked room. He is variously described as a changing, a gnome, a hobgoblin, an alien from outer space, a throwback to a prehistoric race that survived the ice age in subterranean caves and treated the first humans as prey.

But what is horrifying is not so much the child, Ben, or his possibly outlandish origins. It is the effect he has on his family. The house turns into a prison. The children are cowed, the adults guilt-ridden, people bolt their bedroom doors at night. Friends, relations, outsiders learn to pass by on the other side. Gradually the family disintegrates. Its members quarrel, leave home or cease to communicate in a steady drift to dispersal, alienation and incipient violence.

As he grows older, Ben turns his destructive influence from his family to the outside world. He acquires his own brutish gang — a band of gangly, spotty, uncertain adolescents — who infiltrate the now more or less abandoned house. Television and newspaper reports suggest a trail of pillage, rape and savagery in the vicinity.

Not that we see anything of the sort at first hand. The whole point of this alarming book is that Ben's friends are not troglodytes or aliens. Harriet watches them effectively putting paid to her dream of family life, of rosy children and smiling parents round a gleaming scrubbed table loaded with home-baked bread, freshly picked apples and steaming earthenware casseroles.

But even to Harriet herself this glossy vision comes to seem insubstantial compared to the insistent reality of her son and his friends watching television in a midden of greasy cardboard cartons, crisp packets and empty Coke tins.

... best of all they enjoyed the bloody fare of the evening. Shootings and killings and tortures and fighting: this is what fed them. She watched them watching... They were unconsciously tensing and flexing, faces grinning, or triumphant or cruel; and they let out groans or sighs or yells of excitement: "That's it, do it!" "Carve him!" "Kill him, slice him!"

This is a powerful fable. Like the story of Frankenstein, or the Minotaur, it generates all

sorts of uneasiness. Its strength is expressive not didactic. It explores in dread and incredulity what we are like, not how or why we ought to be different. And it creates an ominous sense of forces unleashed by people with no hope of controlling them: nature, as David and Harriet find to their cost, can't be relied on to pick up the pieces.

Lessing once said that her forebears were "grail-chasers of a very highly-developed sort". She herself as a novelist has certainly been in the top class for grail-chasing. The formative ideas of the past 50 years — communism, mysticism, liberal idealism, feminism, radicalism, urban terrorism — have found no better-informed or more assiduous chronicler.

Now she has reached a more prosaic and disturbing vision. Her most recent novels — *The Good Terrorist*, the Jane Somers books about old age and destitution, and this latest slim volume — all paint the contemporary scene with a grim, sharp, bright clarity.

The Fifth Child is not in the least apocalyptic. It offers, on the contrary, a faithful if chilling reflection of the world we live in and its perfectly ordinary inhabitants: uneducated, unwanted, unemployed, uncontrollable, taking their pleasure where they may under the eyes of an intent, dispassionate observer.

The Fifth Child. By Doris Lessing. Cape, £9.95.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

QUESTION: Please help me. My husband is being treated for cancer and all indications were good, but he is finding it increasingly difficult to get a good night's sleep. Sometimes, he just tosses and turns the entire night. Is this a sign that his cancer is getting worse? What can be done?

ANSWER: Insomnia is a frequent complaint of cancer patients. It is rarely a sign that the disease is getting worse, but instead a side effect of treatment, fear of the disease, uncertainty about the future, or pain, which simply inhibits comfortable rest. Pain is a significant problem for about a third of all cancer patients. Many doctors fear the patients will become drug dependent, overly sedate or constipated if they prescribe narcotic medications to relieve the pain. Thus pain control becomes difficult to manage, sometimes with unsatisfactory results.

This problem may be addressed by a variety of techniques. Pain can be controlled through relaxation techniques, an electrical nerve stimulation procedure known as TENS, antidepressant medication and, in severe cases, intravenous morphine or high doses of methadone. Another sleep-inhibiting problem affecting cancer patients is dyspnea — shortness of breath or difficulty in breathing. Patients with this problem may

need home care personnel to help with oxygenation.

Vomiting, nausea, nocturia, fever and positional discomfort also may hinder a cancer patient's sleep.

Medications that may help the victim overcome cancer are themselves frequent causes of sleep disturbances, while the anxiety that comes with this dreaded diagnosis also may produce insomnia.

Patients may be able to stay busy during the day, but at night they focus on their concerns with the cancer. Often the patient may think of other family members or friends who have died of cancer. They feel restless, trapped and that they have no control of their lives. Therapy to overcome this anxiety may include a short course of anti-anxiety medication and backing from family or special cancer patient support groups.

Many cancer victims may stay awake at night because they fear dying in their sleep. They often find nighttime activities, household chores and other things to do to avoid sleep. This creates an abnormal sleep cycle where the patient may fall asleep during the daytime, but stay awake all night. This pattern often is helped when the patient returns to work, begins an exercise programme that

can relieve stress and learns relaxation techniques.

Nightmares also may be frequent in the cancer victim. Fears about the future are uncovered and addressed. Severe depression is also a cause of sleeplessness.

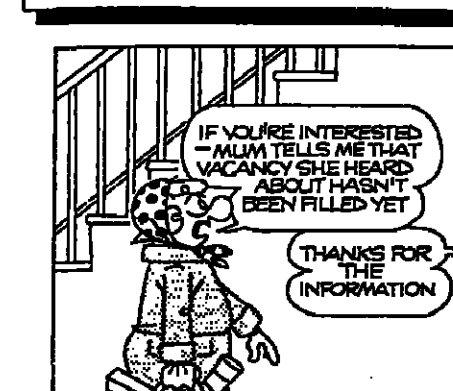
There are many reasons for your husband's sleep problem, and few of them indicate a worsening of the course of the disease. The secret of success here is to find the causes for the insomnia and take the necessary steps to correct them.

ACROSS MY DESK: Effective in the treatment of depression, a group of medications known as tricyclic antidepressants may find a role in the treatment of cocaine addiction. Though these medications are not a cure, research work by Dr Frank A. Gawin, assistant professor of psychiatry at Yale, indicates that the use of them may ease the symptoms of cocaine withdrawal and make the patient more amenable to the psychotherapy which is used to correct the life factors that often provoke relapses in the tricyclics takes a while to appear, the benefits seem to remain over a longer period than medications currently in use.

1988 TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES, INC.

INSOMNIA NOT A SIGN CANCER IS WORSENING

ANDY CAPP



By Smith



ART

Dramatic setting for Rodin sculpture

By Christopher Swan

MARYHILL, Wash.: Rodin, the sculptor thought in massive forms. He dealt in elements. Sorrow. Power. Anguish. Movement. The outspoken features of the human condition in extremis.

So it should be no surprise to find him here.

The creator of "The Thinker" belongs in a region where the earth itself thrusts a shoulder into the sky and moves the weather roughly around. And where the fate of his work still brews a storm of tumult and controversy for the world around it.

To reach this world, you follow Washington State Highway 14 along the lonely Columbia River past the ragged edge of civilization. Nobody and nothing greets you. Across the river, Oregon disappears into unpeopled distances. The promontory road carves its way into a high, empty solitude.

Then you see a mailbox, a driveway, and finally the Maryhill Museum.

Perched on the edge of an abutment, the Maryhill can only be described as a Flemish castle-cum-French chateau. Like a perfect wedding cake, the museum sits in splendid desolation, occupying the high ground above the gorge. A peacock struts across the expansive, neatly manicured grounds. The rosy stone reflects a hard morning light.

More than 1,500 feet below, the Columbia River, all bloated by dams, runs.

In this appropriately dramatic but otherwise unlikely setting, you find one of the world's most interesting collections of Rodin drawings and sculptures: works from his studio. Some finished bronzes, but mostly sketches in plaster, terra cotta, stone; 26 rough drawings and watercolours. Fragments like a hand, a nose, an elbow. In sum, a portrait of the artist as a constant thinker and doer.

A terra cotta mask and some tentative castings prefigure the heavy-footed sorrow of "The Burghers of Calais." There are studies for "The Thinker" and "Eve."

The museum houses other collections — some valuable and impressive artifacts from the pre-history of the mid-Columbia, and a highly intriguing chess set collection; but it is for the Rodins that the Maryhill is justly known among scholars and lovers of his work.

"I am one of the fortunate few who have made the pilgrimage to that museum," says Kirk Varnedoe, acting director of painting and sculpture at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, and an authority on Rodin's work. "There are things that I would have thought Rodin would never let out of his studio."

He calls these pieces "a very idiosyncratic collection, certainly important to Rodin scholars."

"The Maryhill holds pieces that really show a work in process," observes Joan Miller,



Once an isolated, majestic mansion in Maryhill, Washington, the Maryhill Museum now houses an incredible Rodin collection.

curator of the world's largest private Rodin collection, the B. Gerald Cantor Collection. "You find the fingerprint of the artist there."

You also find the lingering traces of a raging controversy.

In the mid-1970s, the Maryhill came under investigation by the Washington State attorney-general's office. The trustees were accused of negligence. There were suggestions of corruption, as valuable Indian artifacts belonging to the museum had been sold off.

Indicators were that the Rodin collection had fallen into incompetent hands.

"They made the house carpenter the curator," complains Albert Eisen, one of the world's foremost Rodin scholars. "The trustees commissioned a worthless catalogue. Very prominent in the catalogue is an acknowledged fake."

Dr. Eisen, professor of art history and art law at Stanford University, also charges that the plaster cast of "Eve" was "restored too adventurously" when some of the pencil marks left on the plaster by Rodin were removed.

The trustees have all been replaced through rotation and voluntary retirement. "My impression is that now things are better run," Eisen adds, giving some credit to the new director, Linda Mountain.

Eloquently

Ms. Mountain herself is inclined to write off the debate of the '70s to ignorance and to "problems of small museums with boards of trustees" that made the transition from private to quasi-public institutions. Now, she points out, the Maryhill operates under new by-laws and more sophisticated trustees.

She invites anyone who questions how well the museum came through the crisis of mismanagement to look at the collections and let them speak for themselves.

Certainly, the works on display here speak eloquently on their own behalf. The worked forms of fishing tools and talismans from the Indian collection, for instance, bear a strange family resemblance to the Rodins. The feeling of mass and humanity strikes a similar chord. Petroglyphs, ancient voices frozen in stone, make a heavy statement of their own.

One can only speculate as to how much damage was done to this collection during the ill-advised selling of precious objects. Mountain maintains that the only person who could estimate the loss was the long-since-deceased first director, Clifford Dolh. She adds that lost items were replaced with something of value.

"Our chess set collection was purchased during that time." This collection runs from a plastic set of Nixon-McGovern caricature pieces to a death specter 20th-century set by artist George Rataki to the ornate chess calligraphy of artists from India. The whole collection is chock-full of a sorcerer's apprentice creation of forms and characters.

If anything was lost from the Rodin collection, it was probably the continuity of scholarship that might have been preserved had the museum been in more experienced hands.

"It is like looking at a grave-robbing's haul," observes Varnedoe. "You've lost the context."

What is known about this valuable little collection is that it was acquired at the hands of Lois Fuller, a dancer who was a friend of both Auguste Rodin and Sam Hill, a road-builder and empire conceiver. Hill came to the Northwest country in about 1900 and decided he would start an agricultural community — one that he hoped would thrive and get bigger. He named the town he founded after his daughter, Mary.

He built this castle — with ramps running into the first

floor, so he could drive the cars he loved to collect into the vestibule of his home. He had a mammoth replica of Stonehenge built across the way, on the Oregon side of the Columbia.

Hill and his town hung out their shingle.

Some people came, but few stayed. This part of the world yields a living only grudgingly. The museum founded on Hill's failed expectations can only stay open from mid-March to September, because it's just too hard to get here in the winter.

But that didn't stop Hill, and it never deterred Lois Fuller, either.

She acquired the works for Hill right out of Rodin's studio.

A small model for "The Thinker" bears the pencil-scribbled inscription, "A. Loie, Rodin." By the time he died, a tidy collection of valuable works had made their way here. And, context or not, they still tell a compelling story about the sculptor and his concerns.

More than finished bronzes, the studies draw you through the many permutations of Rodin's art. You see him doggedly at the business of finding out how much he could say in stone and metal. "That's what's wonderful about this collection," says Joan Miller. "The terra cotta, the stone, the plaster bear the patina of the artist more than the finished bronzes. Being exposed to them is wonderful."

There's "Christ and the Magdalene," for instance, with its twisted torsos and overarching musculature, framed in a window through which you can see the long, stony shoulders of the Columbia Gorge.

Over the course of the next few months, about 70,000 people will make the pilgrimage to this collection, 90 miles from Portland and a million years back in geologic splendour. It's a strange journey. "But as the French say," Eisen muses, "it's worth the detour."

The Christian Science Monitor News Service.

Dali: good or bad, he's never dull!

By Theodore F. Wolff

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.: Very few critics or curators take Salvador Dali seriously anymore. And even those who do are often somewhat defensive, as though they, too, weren't altogether certain that what he produces isn't more brilliant showmanship than art.

It is sometimes difficult to tell — what with his idiosyncratic, often disturbing imagery, exquisite Old Master draftsman's technique, fanciful titles, and genius for self-promotion. No painter in this century — excepting only Andy Warhol — has been as clever and successful as Dali at fashioning an exotic public image. But then, neither has anyone else (except Picasso) produced a more complex and provocative body of work.

Good or bad — and, undeniably, he can be both — Dali is never dull. Even at his weakest or most obscure, he is always diverting.

This fact is made abundantly clear the minute one enters the Salvador Dali Museum here. The cavernous main gallery of this one-man museum is filled with outstanding examples of Dali's art, dating from 1914 to the present and including many of his finest and best-known creations. The museum, in fact, owns the world's largest collection of Dali's works — 93 paintings, 100 watercolours and drawings, 1,300 graphics, numerous sculptures, photographs, posters, and objects d'art, as well as a 2,500-volume library on Dali and Surrealism.

The art was a gift from Cleveland industrialist A. Reynolds Morse and his wife, Eleanor, who first became interested in Dali's work in 1941 and who topped a 40-year friendship with the artist by donating their collection, in several stages beginning in 1980, to St. Petersburg. The museum itself was dedicated in 1982, and holds rotating exhibitions as well as retrospectives of Dali's paintings.

The pictures are arranged chronologically along the outer wall, with a smaller, recessed gallery at the far end holding a few of the more recent mural-size canvases. Smaller works hang on flats strategically placed within the gallery's open spaces. Of particular interest are a number of early paintings that predate his Surrealist affiliation; the very small, precisely realistic 1926 still life, "The Basket of Bread," which is unlike anything of his that either preceded or immediately followed it; the Vermeer-like "The Weaning of Furniture



An unidentified art critic takes a close look at one of Dali's works.

Nutrition," which is about as perfect a 20th-century image as one can find; the huge "Discovery of America by Christopher Columbus" (1958-59), which seemed silly and overblown when first painted, but looks truly impressive today; and several of his smaller studies and oils.

The overall effect of what is currently on view (the museum can exhibit only half its paintings at any one time) is varied, impressive, and more than a little surprising — especially, I suspect, to anyone inclined to dismiss Dali as a charlatan or a brilliant but empty virtuoso. For all his flamboyance, irritating tricks and mannerisms, questionable taste, and self-serving posturing, Dali comes across here as an important and valuable 20th-century artist. Just as, for all its somewhat worshipful attitude toward the master, the museum turns out to be a fascinating and valued addition to today's art world.

It proves, most of all, how much more instructive viewing a major artist's work can be

when broad spectrums of it are presented under one roof and handsomely displayed in one convenient, well-lit place.

This is particularly important in the case of Dali, whose profoundly subjective, apparently erratic shifts in focus and direction stand in direct opposition to the more rational and linear evolutionary approach of Mondrian — or, for that matter, the essentially pragmatic methods of Matisse or Motherwell.

In a very real sense, Dali insists on presenting us with what most "modern masters" have either barely touched upon or eliminated entirely in their work. Whereas Mondrian skips over the dark side of contemporary reality the way a flat stoneskip across the surface of a lake, Dali insists on sinking to the bottom to examine and record the strange and often fearful creatures that lie — or appear to lie — in the muck and mud deep beneath the surface. He believes in excess rather than in ruthless or too careful pruning, in living with and learning from one's personal

demons rather than in a too hasty flight from them, and in drawing upon the great artistic and religious accomplishments of the past in order to illuminate the present.

All of which, of course, sets him apart from all but a small handful of his contemporaries, many of whom are only too eager to use his eccentricities and self-aggrandizement as excuses for condemning him and his art in toto.

What they — and we — should do instead, is to recognize the unique and complex cultural significance of his art, even if we may not always respond favourably to its aesthetics, and permit it to play off contrapuntally against the "messages" of such artists as Matisse, Mondrian, Miro, and Klee.

We lose nothing by doing so, and may benefit in the long run. We may even discover, to our chagrin, that he actually was one of the best artists of our day.

1988, The Christian Science Monitor News Service.

Modern art on Jeddah's corniche

By Philip Shehadi

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia, (Reuters): Children scamper in and out of a Henry Moore sculpture and families throng to neon-lit ferris wheels and glittering marbled shopping malls along the corniche of this transformed Red Sea port.

Saudi oil wealth has enlivened the coast of Jeddah. Young men puff hookahs and relax in an outdoor television lounge near its giant playground, commercial centre and open-air museum.

Jeddah's corniche was the brainchild of ex-mayor Mohammed Said Farsi, who made art and recreation a top priority when he took charge in 1972 on the eve of the oil boom.

"A city without beauty in the street is silent city without a soul," Farsi said at his seaside home where works by Picasso, Renoir and Dali adorn the living room.

Creations

The city now has around 500 works of modern sculpture, many set against the deep-blue water along the coastal ribbon. In its strict interpretation of Islam, Saudi Arabia forbids figurative art — as well as alcohol, cinemas, women drivers and the mingling of unrelated men and women.

So Farsi turned to abstract art to grace the corniche and he commissioned works with local and Islamic themes from leading sculptors.

The abstract creations of Henry Moore, Victor Vasarely, Joan Miro and Cesar caused a stir when first erected.

Modern art was virtually unknown to relatively new set-

ters — bedouin, fishermen, traders and immigrant workers from other Muslim states.

But children now climb through a Henry Moore bronze and families picnic next to giant vases of coloured glass by the Italian-Spanish artist Julio Lafuente.

A fist by Cesar, French sculptor Cesar Baldachini who is known only by his first name, is a landmark often used to give directions.

"When I put up Henry Moore some people didn't like it," said Farsi. "Now I see a lot of people and small children play with it and live with it. Henry Moore and Miro became part of their lives."

"If you put art in the museum and close it nobody will go inside, at least my people. I know them very well. But if you leave it outside people will start to enjoy it," he said.

Saudi, Egyptian and Palestinian artists made sculptures based on local tradition and culture — a jewellery box, old mud houses, fishing boats and nets.

Lafuente did a series in Arabic calligraphy, including a bronze verse from the Holy Quran shaped like a traditional boat.

Bits of Jeddah's history — the first aeroplane to land, the first coastguard boat, the first desalination plant — have been immortalised on concrete blocks.

Private donations, including some from the royal family, funded the sculptures which are worth around \$ 150 million. Defence minister Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz paid \$400,000 for the Cesar fist.

King Fahd paid \$5.5 million for a separate monument, the world's highest jet spray standing 280 meters (900 feet) high next to his new Al Salam (peace) palace on a Lagoon off the coast.

Farsi said the pace of acquisition has slowed as lower oil revenues have dampened the economy.

Naming prominent Jeddah merchants, he said: "In that (boom) time, if I asked \$1 million from (Ali) Juffali he paid. I asked one million dollars from Saleh Kamel and he paid. But now it is hard to ask for \$100,000."

The dynamic Farsi oversaw the selection of every piece of sculpture but denied imposing his taste on others: "There is something for everyone."

After two open heart operations, 52-year-old Farsi retired last year and is now writing a book about sculpture in Jeddah.

Room

Still chain-smoking, he retains a vivid sense of Jeddah's destiny. "We planned for Jeddah to be the shopping centre for the whole Middle East," he said.

A dozen major shopping centres have sprung up in the last few years, and Farsi is planning his own. They boast marble floors, video arcades, fast-food restaurants, ice-cold air conditioning.

"Critics say there will never be room for all of them in an economic recession but Backers insist the best will thrive."

Saudi Arabia has one of the world's highest levels of disposable income and shopping is a popular recreation for its

avid consumers.

Some three to four million Muslim pilgrims pass through Jeddah every year on their way to Makkah and Medina. They form a captive market that has long enriched Jeddah merchants.

Over recent years, administration and diplomacy moved to the desert capital of Riyadh, 1,300 km (800 miles) inland, but Jeddah remains the country's commercial and financial centre.

A long history of foreign contacts makes the city more open to new ideas than others in the kingdom, and Jeddah's local authorities are more likely to support projects that inevitably bring men and women together.

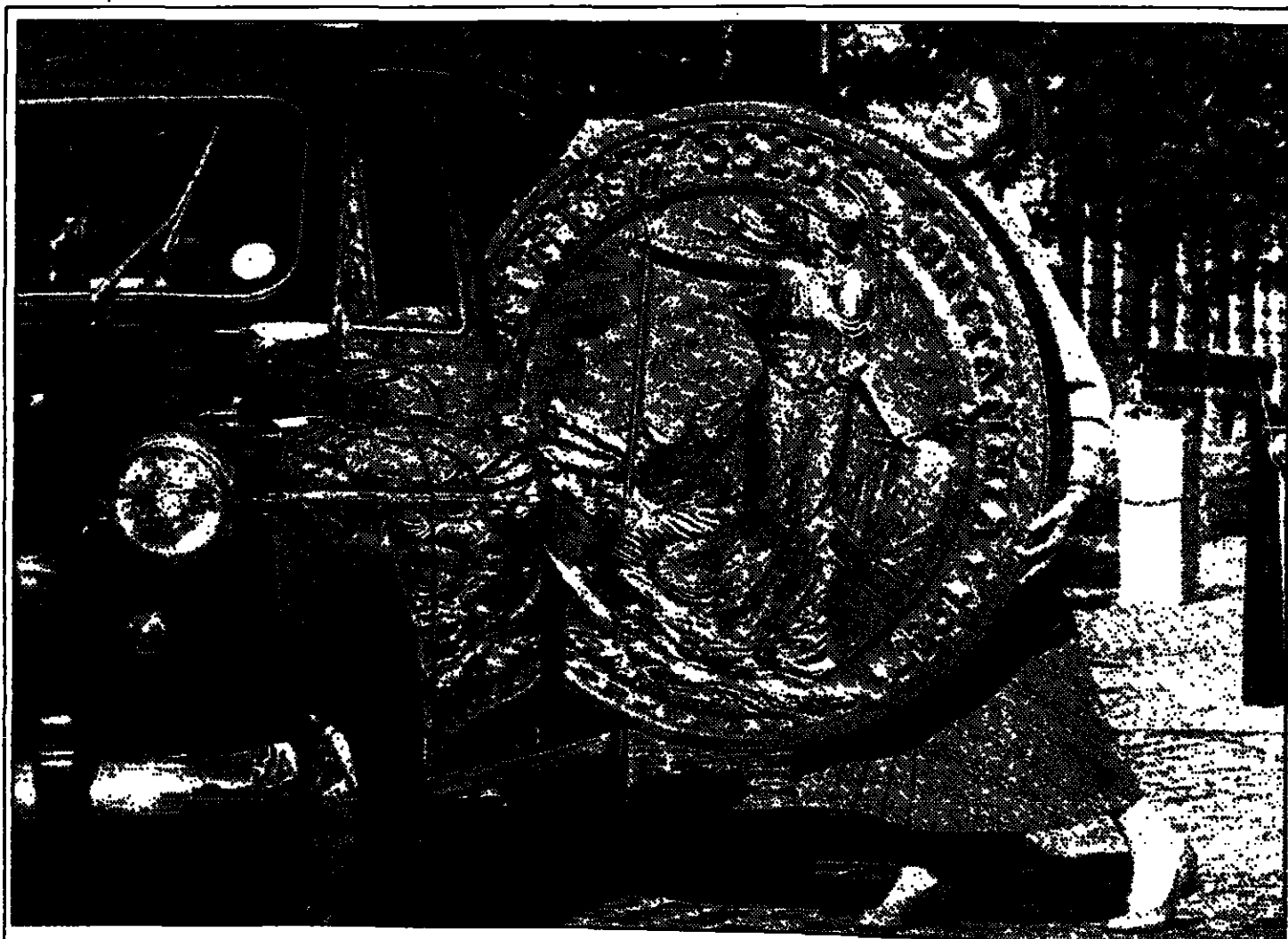
Amusement parks exist elsewhere in the country but not on the scale of Jeddah's.

"Jeddah is more open than other cities, although within limits. We stick to our principles," said Hussein Abdullah Saikhan, director of Attalah Happy Land, one of eight amusement parks on the corniche.

Entrance to the ice rink and its games like Pirate, Haunted Castle and Kosmo City, is for families only.

The present mayor, Khaled Abdul Ghani, says the old city of Jeddah, with its Ottoman (Turkish) coral houses and wooden Mashrabiyas (balconies) will not be lost in the rush to develop.

Several dozen houses are earmarked for preservation, including the old British legion building where T.E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia) stayed in 1916.



Miss Britannia takes a taxi

A GIANT-SIZE replica of the Britannia is lifted into a London taxi by publicist Deryn Hughes, during the launching ceremony of Britain's new gold bullion coin. The design by British engraver Philip Nathan shows a bold and unusual image of Britannia on the reverse, standing upon a rock in the sea, her right hand grasping a trident and her left hand resting on a shield. The design was kept secret by the Royal Mint until its unveiling. The obverse carries a portrait of Queen Elizabeth II by Raphael Maklouf.

The Britannia has been minted in four sizes: 1 oz, 1/2 oz, 1/4 oz and 1/10 oz; the diameters measure respectively 32.69 mm, 27 mm, 22 mm and 16.5 mm. Each coin contains exactly the nominated weight in gold (there is 1 oz of 22 carat gold alloyed with copper in the 1 oz value).

Bullions coins, unlike rare collectors' coins, are sold at a premium above the price of gold to cover the price of manufacture and distribution. The Britannia is obtainable both nationally and internationally.

Each coin is legal tender in the UK with a face value of £100 for the 1 oz piece and for the smaller denominations £50, £25 and £10 respectively. The £100 face value is the highest of any coin minted in the UK, although its real value is determined by the prevailing international price of gold. At current levels, the 1 oz (28.35 g) Britannia would be priced at between £330 and £360 (\$534.60 and \$583.20) including value added tax.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Saudi American Bank triples net profit

RIYADH, July 8, (Reuters): Saudi American Bank said today it tripled net profit for the first half of 1988, the strongest signal yet the long slide of Saudi bank profit may be coming to an end.

The bank, owned 40 per cent by the US Citibank NA, said net profit until the end of June rose to 121.3 million riyals (\$32 million) from 39.7 million riyals (\$11 million) the year before.

Saudi American, or SAMBA, is the first of the Kingdom's 11 commercial banks to announce its six months' earnings.

Earlier in the year it reported an increase in net profit for 1987, its first increase in five years. Three other Saudi banks also reported higher 1987 profits.

Saudi Arabia's banks, once among the most profitable in the world, have been hit since the early 1980s by falling oil revenues, bad loans and a squeeze on operating margins.

"On the revenue side, we have focussed on new products," SAMBA Managing Director Shaikat Aziz said.

"On the expense side we have gone through a massive productivity increase, using more technology and rationalising the work load," he said.

Oil rig disaster sends Occidental shares lower

World oil prices rise sharply on North Sea platform blast

LONDON, July 8, (Reuters): World oil prices jumped yesterday after a North Sea oil platform explosion shut down about 12 per cent of British crude output. The disaster sent Occidental Petroleum shares lower on the New York Stock Exchange.

Occidental Petroleum Corp., operator of the Piper Alpha platform, said its Piper field could be shut for a year. Five other fields which feed crude into a shared pipeline system were shut temporarily as a precaution.

The fields have combined production of more than 284,000 barrels daily.

This is only a tiny fraction of world supply of around 50 million barrels daily. Markets are also oversupplied at present.

But the accident, combined with Gulf tensions and talk of possible OPEC action to deal with the oversupply, sent prices for North Sea Brent blend (the most widely traded international crude) up more than \$1 compared with Wednesday.

They stood late in London's afternoon at around \$15.70 a barrel, traders said.

In the United States, the US

benchmark West Texas Intermediate blend rose 97 cents to \$16.33 a barrel.

North Sea spot market prices were down at \$14 early this week when they sank to 19-month lows because of a glut in the world market.

Crude from the six closed North Sea fields, which are operated by units of Texaco Inc and Occidental, flows through pipelines to the Flotta terminal in the Orkney Islands off Scotland, and are blended to form Flotta Blend crude oil.

Occidental and Texaco said they were declaring "force majeure" on crude shipments.

Force majeure is a clause in contracts under which a company can declare that an act of God has rendered it unable to meet its contractual commitments.

Continued tension in the Middle East, and indications that the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) may be about to take action to buoy oil prices reinforced the gains prompted by the North Sea disaster.

In New York, shares of Occidental Petroleum Corp fell

yesterday after the explosion severely curtailed oil production for the company.

British Energy Secretary Cecil Parkinson said 16 people were killed and 150 missing after the blast.

Occidental lost 15 per cent of its oil production," said oil analyst Richard Pzena of Sanford C. Bernstein and Company.

"It will affect earnings right away."

Analysts estimated the loss in production from the explosion on the Piper Alpha rig would cut earnings by around \$20 million this year and another \$20 million to 30 million would be lost from the shutdown of neighbouring facilities, depending on how long they remain out of service.

Occidental closed six other rigs in the area as a precaution.

The company's shares were down 62.5 cents at \$26.25 in active midday trading of the New York Stock Exchange yesterday.

Occidental chairman Armand Hammer released a statement expressing regret over the accident.

"I wish to extend my deepest

sympathy to the families of the men who have been injured or who have lost their lives in this tragic accident," he said.

"We will continue to do everything we can to assist the injured and their families."

Task force

Occidental said it would set up a task force to help local police and families of its employees. It said it has insurance to cover the explosion damage.

"We are fully covered from platform replacement and wreckage removal," a spokesman for the company said. "We also have liability insurance."

Insurance industry brokers said losses from the accident could total more than \$1 billion.

"This is probably going to be the largest loss in the North Sea," said an official at insurance broker Willis Faber, which arranged most of the insurance coverage.

Analysts say the disaster was likely to push up insurance premiums in the marine, oil and energy sectors.

The shutdown of fields which produce 280,000 barrels daily, nearly an eighth of Britain's total output, means an estimated loss

of \$4.5 million a day of oil revenues.

"It will have serious implications," said Jeremy Elden, an oil industry analyst at brokers Phillips and Drew.

Aside from the loss of exports, the shutdown could lose the government between £300 and 400 million (\$515 and 690 million) in taxes over a whole year.

Industry analyst Chris Rowland of London brokers Smith New Court said he thought the Piper platform could be back in service in six months.

The five associated oil fields also closed by the explosion could be reopened in a month, he said.

Other analysts are less sure. Some think it could be years before Piper is reopened.

Likely

Meanwhile, over the long run, oil companies will pay a price of their own — insurance rates are likely to rise.

"It will frighten off the competition and push up premiums in oil and energy," said Chris Pountain, an insurance analyst at stockbrokers County Nat-West Woodmac.

Iraq and Egypt sign economic agreement

BAGHDAD, July 8, (AP): Iraq and Egypt have signed a protocol for joint co-operation in the fields of trade, industry, transport, construction, and scientific and cultural exchanges, the official news media reported today.

The document was inked by visiting Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sedki and Iraqi First Deputy Premier Taha Yassin Ramadan yesterday.

Sedki, who left Baghdad after signing the protocol, had earlier described Iraqi-Egyptian co-operation as "strategically important for the Arab world."

The Egyptian Premier, who headed a 10-member delegation to Iraq, hailed the co-operation agreement, which he said would further improve ties between the

two Arab countries.

The Egyptian prime minister reiterated Egypt's support for Iraq in its war with Iran, which began in September 1980.

Egypt has been a staunch supporter of Iraq in the war but Iraqi officials have repeatedly denied any direct involvement of Egypt on the war effort.

The official media in Baghdad said eight agreements were signed between Egypt and Iraq, including one that allows for political co-operation between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the two countries at international meetings.

An agreement on information co-operation was also signed, allowing the expansion of news exchange and co-operation in television, and radio, programmes.

On the revenue side, we have focussed on new products," SAMBA Managing Director Shaikat Aziz said.

"On the expense side we have gone through a massive productivity increase, using more technology and rationalising the work load," he said.

US unemployment rate falls to 14-year low

WASHINGTON, July 8, (Reuters): The US unemployment rate fell three-tenths of a point in June to a 14-year low of 5.3 per cent, the Labour Department said today.

Economists, who had expected little if any change from the May rate of 5.6 per cent, said the strength of the labour market made it more likely that the Federal Reserve, the US central bank would raise interest rates to prevent the economy from overheating.

Flooding

Youths flooding the summer job market and finding a wealth of opportunity dropped the United States' June civilian unemployment rate to 5.3 per cent, its lowest since 1974, the government said today.

Seasonally adjusted employment in June jumped by 820,000 — 75 per cent of it among youths, 16-24 years old — to more than

offset May's decline of 536,000.

The 0.3 percentage point improvement in the unemployment rate marked the first time the rate has dipped so strongly since 1986 and sent it to its lowest since joblessness stood at 5.1 per cent in May 1974.

Unemployment among teenagers fell 2.0 percentage points to 13.6 per cent, its lowest since 1970.

Among black teens, the rate fell a whopping 6.0 per cent to 28.4 per cent, the lowest recorded since that statistic was first tracked in 1972. Black teenage employment, however, was still more than double the 12.0 per cent rate for white teens.

Anticipated

Analysts had anticipated a surge in youth employment in the tourism industry as unprecedented numbers of foreigners, buoyed by the devalued dollar,

are vacationing in the United States this summer.

The Labour Department said the June job growth was affected in part by the fact that its monthly household survey was conducted late in June, "allowing extra time for students, graduates and seasonal workers to find jobs."

The hiring boom meant that 62.3 per cent of working-age Americans had jobs, a percentage achieved only in April.

Unemployment dropped by 328,000 to 6.5 million last month, with teenagers and adult men accounting for all of the decline.

A separate survey of business payrolls showed that 345,000 jobs were created in June, compared with an average of 250,000 a month from February through May. The largest increases were in services and retail trade, 160,000 and 75,000 respectively.

The Labour Department said

there were also "noteworthy" gains of 25,000 jobs each in transportation and wholesale trade, reflecting increased factory output.

Vigorous

After slowing in May, employment in the goods-producing areas of the economy resumed its vigorous growth of the last year. Construction employment rose by 55,000 jobs; factory employment grew by 45,000.

Most of the factory gains were in the machinery and durable goods areas.

The active housing market sent employment in the finance, insurance and real estate industries up by a total of 15,000, compared with a gain of only 1,000 in May. Employment in those industries was still 63,000 below the level of a year ago, four months before the October stock market crash.

Saudi Arabia supports joint Arab economic action

AMMAN, July 8, (OPECNA): Saudi Arabian Finance and National Economy Minister Mohammed Aba Alkhalil has stressed the need to boost relations between Arab countries through regional co-operation in all fields.

Aba Alkhalil, who was attending a meeting of the Arab Economic and Social Council which ended here on Wednesday, expressed the kingdom's keenness to strengthen joint Arab action.

He urged Arab countries to meet their financial commitments to Arab League's affiliated organisations to enable them to carry out their work for the Arab cause.

He said the council meeting adopted a number of recommendations on solving the problems facing Arab organisations, including the merger of some of them.

It decided to merge nine Arab League institutions in order to improve economic efficiency. It also created a new body — the Arab Organisation for Industrial and Mineral Development — by merging the Arab Organisation for Education, Culture and Science, the Arab Work Organisation and the Arab Organisation for Administrative Development.

Indonesia should remain vigilant, says Ginandjar

JAKARTA, July 8, (OPECNA): Despite an upward trend in tin prices on the world market, Indonesia should remain vigilant as international stocks were still "large enough", Minister of Mines and Energy Ginandjar Kartasasmita warned here today.

According to the minister, demand, currently higher than supply, is now partly being met through stock releases.

He said Indonesia's tin output for this year was projected at about 29,000 tonnes under an output quota, as laid down by the Association of Tin Producing Countries (ATPC).

International tin prices fell from \$12,500 a tonne in 1984 to \$6,500 in 1986.

US foreign debt shows darker side of Reagan's economic legacy

WASHINGTON, July 8, (Reuters): As President Reagan's eight years in office draw to a close, attention is turning to what many economists see as the darker side of his economic legacy — record US budget and trade gaps and a mounting foreign debt.

Although Reagan's low-tax policies have helped to fuel 68 straight months of growth, a peacetime record, they have also spawned the deficits which critics say are sapping America's global power by undermining its ability to control its economic destiny.

No longer

"The US is a net debtor and as such is no longer in the driver's seat," said Robert Brusca, chief economist at Nikko Securities Co International Inc in New York.

America's dependence on foreign capital was highlighted by a government report last week showing that the nation owed the rest of the world \$368.2 billion in 1987, up from \$269.2 billion in 1986.

As recently as 1982, the United States ran an international investment surplus of \$136.9 billion.

"No country in human history

has ever gone from being the largest creditor to the largest debtor in such a short time," said Lester Thurow, dean of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Sloan School of Management.

America's slide into the red has been mirrored by the ascent of Japan, which became the world's largest creditor last year, with net assets of \$240 billion.

And it has not gone unnoticed that Japan is starting to parlay this growing wealth into diplomatic power.

US officials, for instance, were annoyed at last month's economic summit in Toronto when Japan, no longer willing meekly to follow the lead of US Treasury Secretary James Baker on Third World debt, tabled its own plan for easing the burden on giant debtors such as Brazil and Mexico.

"Their attitude is that they have some leverage back on us," Brookings Institution scholar George Perry says about Japan.

"They'll be tougher to contend with than in the past."

This role reversal has touched off a national debate.

Studies of US competitiveness

are sprouting, newspapers have carried lengthy articles from Tokyo about waning American power, reflected in the dollar's slide against the yen, and researchers have struck a rich new vein of inquiry.

Yale professor Paul Kennedy has been on the New York Times bestseller list for 22 weeks with a weighty tome called the rise and fall of the great powers, which argues that the United States, like previous "declining hegemonies" such as Britain, runs the risk of "imperial overstretch."

Awkward

"Decision-makers in Washington must face the awkward and enduring fact that the sum total of the United States' global interests and obligations is nowadays far larger than the country's power to defend them all simultaneously," he writes.

The US share of world Gross National Product was 21.5 per cent in 1980, down from 25.9 per cent in 1960 and 40 per cent or more by 1945, but still greater than the 16-18 per cent that size, population and natural resources suggest it should be.

"What we are witnessing at the

moment is the early decades of the ebbing away from that extraordinarily high figure to a more 'natural' share," Kennedy writes.

Shafiqul Islam of the Council for Foreign Relations in New York said a gradual realignment of global power is neither surprising nor alarming. "But fiscal profligacy in the Reagan era may have complicated things further," he said.

Risen

By depleting national savings, Reagan's budget deficits have forced the United States to depend on funds from abroad, making the dollar and Wall Street vulnerable to the changing moods of foreign investors.

The national debt has risen from \$1 trillion in 1981 to more than \$2.5 trillion today.

Although the debt remains manageable in relation to the \$4.5 trillion of US goods and services produced each year, the need to make interest and dividend payments to foreigners will hold back the nation's standard of living.

"It means we will be producing more goods than we are consuming ... they'll be skimming off

some of the income," Robert Orner, the Commerce Department's chief economist, said of America's creditors.

Neither Vice-President George Bush nor Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis has yet offered a detailed plan to cut the budget deficit, but Republicans and Democrats alike accept that the gap must gradually be closed if the nation's trade balance — and its influence abroad — are to improve.

The US will be in more of a position to exert leadership if we've got our fiscal house in order," said Harvard professor Lawrence Summers, a key Dukakis advisor.

Dominant

Nobody questions that the United States will remain the dominant military and economic power, but increasingly, some analysts say, it will have to act as a "first among equals."

John Steinbruner, director of foreign policy studies at Brookings, said Washington can no longer count on the leverage that sheer weight used to provide.

"We're in the process of learning how to act in concert," he said.

Soviet joint venture needs more than enthusiasm

MOSCOW, July 8, (Reuters): Ingenuity is needed to turn a profit in the Soviet Union.

Western firms are lining up to try to take advantage of a reforming 1987 law that lets Soviet and foreign enterprises open joint business ventures. But it is not easy to hit on a recipe for commercial success.

"Many of our companies are very interested but on the other hand very reluctant," said a West German banker. "It's still very difficult because the Soviet regulations are not clear."

Brim

Other business consultants said visiting company delegations often brim with enthusiasm when they arrive.

Many flounder, however, in initial negotiations. They are soon baffled by the complexities of Soviet joint venture law and are handicapped by lack of experience in dealing with Soviet officials and by a sketchy knowledge of the market.

Almost 60 joint venture agreements have been signed since 1987. But only a handful of new companies are actually working.

Computer firm Interquadro is one of the few.

A joint venture with Italian, Soviet and French partners, it

was created last December to tap a vast market in the Soviet Union — for computer software and hardware.

Frenchman Alexandre Kaplan, vice general manager, said in an interview in the firm's offices of Gorky Street, central Moscow, that the Soviet Union has just 1,000 personal computers.

"The need is five to 10 million," he said.

Plans

Interquadro, fruit of Kaplan's years of experience at the Moscow office of French computer firm Anirail-Utec, plans to change this.

Anirail-Utec has a 20 per cent stake in Interquadro, the Soviet education ministry 40 per cent, Gosgoproim, the super-ministry for agriculture, 35 per cent and Italian import-export company Delta Trading five per cent.

Its share capital is 800,000 roubles (\$1.3 million).

Kaplan intends to break into the market gradually before opening a computer sales outlet for hard currency in Gorky Street by the end of the year, which he expects to have foreign and Soviet customers.

Interquadro has already started a service department for com-

puters and a training school for user and programmers. Its staff of 60, Soviet apart from Kaplan, an Italian marketing manager and a French technical manager, has been trained abroad.

Output

It is also developing systems for controlling output at diamond and watch factories in the Moscow region and in the Urals, and is working on an irrigation programme for Gosagroprom, which it expects to be a major client as it switches to computer monitoring of agricultural production.

Kaplan attributes his success in getting Interquadro launched quickly to his previous experience in the Soviet Union.

Others, even when they have negotiated legal hurdles, are sometimes stalled by technical difficulties such as unfinished factories and delays in deliveries of raw materials.

Signed

But the spectrum of interest in doing business in the Soviet Union could not be wider.

Fast food chain McDonald's Corp. has signed an agreement with the Moscow City Executive Committee to open 20 restaurants. Finnish airline Finnair is to part-run a hotel here.

World Business Summary

British Telecom firm wins three overseas contracts

LONDON, July 8, (AP): British Telecom, the consultancy arm of British Telecom, announced on Wednesday three overseas contracts worth a total of more than £1.5 million (\$2.56 million). The first is for a 12-month study to improve the management structure and organisation of the Kenya Post and Telecommunications Corp. work on the £1 million (\$1.71 million) World Bank-funded project will start in August. British Telecom said in a statement. The second contract, worth £150,000 (\$256,500), is to provide specifications and evaluate tenders for a new telecommunications network for the Gulf Oil Co. of Nigeria's office and housing complex in Lagos. The third contract is to design and supervise the installation of a rural telecommunications network in the Gulf country of Oman, the company said. The 20-month contract, worth approximately £400,000 (\$684,000), is with the General Telecommunications Organisation of Oman.

World Bank chief signs export loan pact with Spain

MADRID, July 8, (AP): Spain agreed yesterday to make \$100 million in loans through the World Bank to finance exports to developing countries. The agreement was signed by World Bank President Barber Conable and Spanish Foreign Minister Carlos Solchaga. Solchaga told reporters after a midday signing ceremony with Conable that "Spain views the accord as a reasonable way to co-operate with developing countries, while also stimulating its exports." The two-year loan package calls for Spain and the World Bank to co-operate in making low-interest loans to developing countries, mostly to help the countries finance importation of Spanish equipment and products. Conable said the accord, the first of its kind between Spain and the World Bank, illustrated the impressive change in Spain's status after a decade of economic restructuring. He said in 1981 Spain had put an end to its status as a borrower from the World Bank and emerged as an important contributor, a change he called "dramatic." Last February, Spain increased its presence in the World Bank, increasing its share of capital in the World Bank from 1.28 per cent to 1.65 per cent of the total. After a speech yesterday to 450 top economic and business leaders, Conable announced the institution planned to issue \$90 million in bonds in the Spanish market soon. The issue would be the second in two years. In July 1987, the World Bank made its first bond offering ever in Spain worth \$90 million.

US regulators approve one-share, one-vote rule

WASHINGTON, July 8, (Reuters): Government regulators yesterday adopted a rule which prohibits stock exchanges and the over-the-counter market from listing new securities with unequal voting rights, with certain exceptions. The so-called one-share, one-vote rule, adopted by the Federal Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) by a 4-to-1 vote, prohibits listing or quoting securities if the issuing company issues unequal voting stock or takes actions which would nullify, restrict, or disparately reduce the voting rights of existing common stock shareholders. The rule takes effect immediately. The rule, formally known as the shareholder disenfranchisement rule, contains a provision which allows firms with unequal voting stocks already issued to keep those shares in place. SEC staff said the rule provides flexibility by allowing exchanges and other self-regulatory organisations to issue rules, subject to SEC review, specifying the types of securities and corporate actions covered by the rule.

Petroleum finance firm signs accord to buy oil newsletter

NEW YORK, July 8, (Reuters): The Petroleum Finance Co. consulting firm has signed an agreement to buy Petroleum and Energy Intelligence Weekly Inc., which lost most of its staff recently to resignations, officials said yesterday.

Ed Morse, managing director of Petroleum Finance, said that the deal should be completed by September, but would not disclose the terms. Morse would only say that Petroleum Finance was paying "a lot of money." Petroleum and Energy Intelligence Weekly Inc. publishes Petroleum Intelligence Weekly, an authoritative oil industry newsletter, and Petroleum Market Intelligence, a monthly publication. Most staff members resigned early last month after a protracted dispute with Wanda Jablonski, its sole owner, according to industry sources. Jablonski said she will remain as publisher of PIW and Petroleum Market Intelligence. Jablonski said she had been asking for \$15 million, though she would not say whether Petroleum Finance was paying that much. International Thomson Organisation Ltd. previously offered to buy Petroleum and Energy Intelligence Weekly for \$15 million, but the deal fell through, according to Jablonski.

Saudi-Texaco joint venture can proceed without federal approval

NEW YORK, July 8, (OPECNA): Plans by Saudi Arabia and Texaco to set up a joint refinery and oil marketing venture in the United States can proceed without the approval of the federal committee that reviews foreigners' purchases of American companies, according to a Treasury Department official. "It not going to be reviewed," said Stephen Canner, director, office of International Investment at US Treasury and co-ordinator of the Committee on Foreign Investments. The committee, which has no authority to block deals between US and foreign companies, was set up to see if the deal would violate any anti-trust laws or regulations governing technology exports. Last month, Saudi Arabia and Texaco announced plans to set up a joint venture to refine oil and market the products in the Eastern and Gulf coast states of the union. Under the deal, expected to be finalised by the end of the year, each side will hold a half interest worth about \$800 million. An agreement in principle has already been signed in New York between Aramco services, a subsidiary of the Arab American Oil Company, and Texaco.

Chinese newspaper renews calls for trade links with Taiwan

BEIJING, July 8, (AP): The Communist Party newspaper yesterday renewed China's call for official trade links with Taiwan, as that island's ruling Nationalist Party opened a landmark party Congress. "We always maintain that the two sides should develop trade, help supply each others' need and undertake economic exchanges to promote an early reunification of the motherland," the official People's Daily said in a front-page editorial. In Taipei, Lee Teng-Hui, acting chairman of the Nationalist Party, spent much of his half-hour speech at the opening of the party's landmark 13th Congress reiterating the hardline policy of no official contacts with the Communist mainland. "We have no illusions about the Chinese Communist regime and will make no compromise of any kind with them," he said. The Nationalists fled to Taiwan after losing a bloody civil war to the Communists in 1949. Both claim all of China. For 38 years, Taiwan banned all contacts with the Chinese mainland, but unofficial contact has increased recently. Last fall, Taiwan relaxed a 40-year-old ban on travel to allow family reunions. Since October, 96,000 Taiwanese have visited China. This spring, Taiwan began allowing mail exchanges through the International Red Cross. Two-way indirect trade, mostly through Hong Kong, Japan or Singapore, has increased, totalling about \$1.51 billion last year. Many Taiwanese businessmen invest in their mainland ancestral home. China on Wednesday announced regulations designed to encourage Taiwanese businessmen to invest on the mainland by offering preferential treatment and the right to withdraw profits.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

ARAB TIMES, SATURDAY, JULY 9, 1988

LONDON
(Alpha Stocks)

NAME	LAST	INCHCAPE	230.0
ABBEY LFE	324/0	JAGUAR	319.0
ADT LTD	143/0	LADROKE	562/0
ALD LYONS	430.0	LAND SECS	418.0
AMSTRAD	211/0	LAPORTE	418.0
ARGYL GP	187/0	LASMO	430/0
ASDA GP	161.0	LEGAL+GEN	336.0
BAA	273.0	LOWRUS	257.0
BTR	285.0	LUCAS IND	549.0
BAT INDS	27.42	MAGNET	240/0
BAYCLAYS	471/0	MARKS+SP	174.0
BASS	793.0	MAXWELL C	225/0
BEAZER	190.0	METAL BOX	237.0
BEECHAMS	471/0	MEPC	535/0
BELFORD	367/0	MIDLAND BK	443/0
BICC PLC	325/0	NEXT	242/0
BLUE ARV	118/0	NTF FOODS	303.0
BLUE CIRC	467/0	P & O DFD	571/4
BOC GP	419/0	PEARL	485.0
BOOTS CO	221/0	PEARSON	716.0
BPB INDS	284.0	PILKINGTON	217.0
BR CONN	259.0	PLESSEY	169/4
BR AIRWAY	149/0	PRUDENTIAL	170/0
BR AEROSP	446.0	RACAL	337.0
BR GAS RG	185/0	RANK HVIS	733/0
BR GAS RT	183.0	RANK ORG	950/0
B.P. NEV	63/0	RECKITT+CO	418.0
B.P. RVT		REDLAND	419.0
BR TELCOM	53.00	REED	360.0
BURMAN OL	530.0	RFL BK SC	482/0
BURTON	222.0	RGC GRP	354.0
CABLEWIR	374/0	REUTERS	39.00
CADBURYS	02.00	RTZ CORP	146.0
COATS VLY	245/0	ROLLS ROY	421.0
COMN UNI	376.0	ROTHMAN B	068/0
CONS GOLD	080.0	ROYAL INS	418.0
COOKSONS	264/0	SATCHEL	372.0
COURTAULD	342/0	SAINT-NEW	321/0
DALGETY	38.66	SEARS	122/0
DEE CP	188/0	SEDEWICK	237/0
DIXONS	175.0	SHELL	060/0
ENG CHINA	463.0	SMITH IND	270.0
ENTER OIL	475/0	SMITH+MEPH	133.0
FKI BABCK	123/0	STC	291.5
GERRANT	90/0	STORESH	243/0
GEN ACCID	916/0	SUN ALLIA	995.0
GEN ELEC	164/4	TARAC	235/0
GLAXO	986/0	TATELYLE	845.0
GRANADA	310/0	TESCO	147/0
GLOBE	144.0	THORN ENI	640.0
GLYNED	306/0	TRAFF HSE	316.0
GRAND MET	512.5	T S B	110.0
GUARD RYL	940.0	T + M	179/0
GUN	320/0	TRUSTHEE	255.0
GUINNESS	343.0	ULTRAMAR	293/0
HAMMERS A	630/0	UNILEVER	478.0
HANSON	144/0	UNIGATE	322/0
HAKER STD	521.0	UTD BISC	302.0
HILLSDOWN	282.0	UTD WMSR	434/0
ICI	688/0	WELLCOME	533.0
IMI	207.0	WHITBRO	297/0
		WILLIAMS	286.0
		WILLIS FB	27.0
		WIMPEY GE	239.0
		WOOLWORTH	276/0

LONDON
(Beta Stocks)

NAME	CLOSE	OPEN
1ST CHARL	12/4	12/4
2ND ALLCE	741/0	742/0
A B PORTS	529/0	530/0
A.B.ELECT	440/0	443/0
AAB KENT	94/0	94/0
AAH HLD	292/0	293/0
AARONSON	115/0	116/0
ACRE OIL	221/0	223/0
ADDISON	39/0	39/0
ADNVEST	367/0	366/0
ALEX WRMK	169/0	171/0
ALEXON	389/0	387/0
ALLD COLL	134/0	134/0
ALLD IR B	247/0	247/0
ALLD LON	128/0	128/0
ALLD PLMT	60/0	60/0
ALLIANCE	829/0	830/0
AMARI	260/0	261/0
AMEC	373/0	373/0
AMER TRST	127/0	127/0
AMERSHAM	463/0	463/0
AMTALTYC	266/0	267/0
ANG HIA	177/0	179/0
ANGLO D'S	213/4	214/0
ANGSCHACH	84/0	85/0
APLEYARD	451/0	452/0
APRIOT	115/0	117/0
APV PLC	124/0	124/0
AQUAS.A.	79/0	80/0
ARAN ENGY	81/0	82/0
ARCHER AJ	147/0	146/0
ARLINGTON	193/0	193/0
ARMSTRONG	135/0	135/0
ASS NEWS	494/0	495/0
ASTRA HLD	35/0	35/0
AT ASST	51/4	50/0
ATLANTIC CN	380/0	378/0
ATTWOODS	298/0	298/0
AUTO REED	378/0	378/0
AUTO SECS	263/0	263/0
AVON RUBB	725/0	725/0
B.M.WILL	176/0	176/0
BAILL SHI	85/0	85/0
BAIRD (W)	264/0	265/0
BANK IRS	227/0	228/0
BANKER IT	72/4	73/0
BARKER DO	141/0	140/0
BART DEV	181/0	181/0
BAYNES C	29/0	29/0
BBA GROUP	166/0	166/0
BELHAVEN	47/0	48/0
BELWAY	263/0	263/0
BEMOSE	221/0	221/0
BENLOX ND	52/0	52/0
BENTALLS	184/0	183/0
BERKELEY	329/0	328/0
BHH GROUP	129/0	129/0
BK OF SCO	389/0	389/0
BLACKWOOD	53/0	53/0
BLACK LE 2	17/0	17/0

NEW YORK

NAME	OPEN	MID-DAY
A BSCN CO	30/5	30/7
ATLANTIC R	81/6	82/3
AAR CORP	26/1	26/2
ABBOTT LAB	0	45/6
ACME CLVD	11/3	11/3
ADV MICRO	16/1	16/2
AEROF LAB	8/6	8/6
AETNA LIFE	44/3	44/5
AMAMSON	15/3	15/3
AIR PR-CRM	49/6	49/7
ALASKA AIR	19/2	19/2
ALBERTSONS	35/0	35/0
ALBMA 8-16	0	32/2
ALCAN ALUM	32/0	32/0
AL CYANOID	51/2	51/3
AM ELET PA	28/2	28/3
AM NON PRO	73/7	74/0
AM NON PRO	79/5	79/7
AM STNARD	0	77/6
AM STORES	50/2	50/1
AM TEL-TEL	26/3	26/5
AMOCO CORP	74/4	74/4
AMP INC	50/1	50/2
AMPC PITT	13/1	13/3
AMR CORP	48/3	48/6
AMR GEN CO	30/3	30/3
AMERADA NE	27/4	27/5
ANTHONY ELE	15/6	15/6
APACHE CP	7/3	7/4
APACHE PET	2/7	2/6
ARMSTRONG	36/6	37/0
ASHLUD OIL	72/0	72/2
ASIA PACIF	7/1	7/0
ATLS CORP	34/0	33/6
AVERT INT	25/5	25/7
AVNET INC	24/1	24/0
AVON PRODS	26/2	26/3
BCE INC	30/6	30/7
BELLSOUTH	41/4	41/4
BELO CP A	29/7	29/7
BETH STEEL	23/1	23/2
BEVERLY	7/2	7/3
BK BOSTON	26/7	27/1
BK BOSTN-A	44/4	44/2
BK NY-NY	34/7	34/7
BK NY-NY	36/3	36/3
BKAMERICA	13/5	13/5
BANK SEC	6/7	6/7
BOEING CO	58/6	59/0
BOISE CASC	45/5	45/7
BORDEN	52/3	52/4
BOUATIER	34/0	34/0
BR TELECOM	43/0	43/0
BRIGGS-STR	33/3	33/3
BRIST-MYER	39/7	40/2
BRUNSWICK	20/5	20/6
BURNDY CP	12/0	12/1
C 3 INC	11/2	11/3
CABOT CORP	38/2	38/4
CAESARS W	28/1	28/1
CA FREIGHT	22/3	22/2
CAS NAT GS	15/3	15/3
CAS-COKE	26/4	26/6
CATERPILL	66/4	66/6
CBI IND	30/5	30/6
CBS	160/2	160/4
CENTEL CP	45/2	45/2
CHAMP INTL	35/7	36/0
CHAMP SPA	12/2	12/3
CHARTER CO	3/6	3/7
CHASE MAN	29/4	29/6
CHENED CP	33/1	33/3
CHENIC BNC	29/7	30/1
CHRYSLER	47/1	47/1
CHUBB CORP	23/4	23/6
CHUR FR CH	6/0	6/0
CIGNA CORP	46/5	46/5
CIN MILACR	25/6	25/3
CIR CIT ST	33/7	33/7
CIRCLE K	14/6	14/7
CITICORP	24/3	24/6
CLARK EQUI	34/0	34/1
CLOROX	28/4	28/5
CMBLL RES.	1/2	1/2
CNOC INC	24/6	24/6
CAN PAC	19/3	19/4
COASTAL	32/4	32/4
COCA-COLA	37/3	37/7
COLECO	1/7	1/7
COLEMAN CO	38/4	38/5
COLG-PALM	43/0	43/0
COLUMBUS-C	0	11/0
CON EDISON	27/0	27/0
CONAGRA	29/0	29/2
CON EDISON	43/3	43/6
CONTINENTAL	38/6	39/0
CONTEL ILL	*03	*03
CONTEL CP	33/7	34/0
CONTR DATA	25/7	26/2
COOPER T-R	39/5	39/4
COOPER COR	10/6	10/6
CORNING GL	58/6	58/6
CRANE	30/3	30/2
CRAV RES	85/3	85/7
CULINET	8/1	8/2
DANIEL IND	0	8/3
DATA GEN	23/5	24/0
DATAPONT	4/7	5/0
DAYTON HUD	35/0	35/1
DEC	113/4	114/4
DEERE CO	44/5	44/5
DELTA ATR	53/2	53/5
DIAMOND SH	15/4	15/4
DIEBOLD	40/0	40/1
DISNEY V	63/0	63/1
DOVER CORP	70/4	70/2
DOM CHENIC	89/1	89/4
DOM JONES	33/6	33/6
DRESSER IN	29/6	29/7
DREYFUS	28/3	28/3
DUKE POWER	45/2	45/4
DUN BRAD	49/4	49/4
DUPONT	89/3	89/6
DUKESNE	15/0	15/0
DYNAMICS	23/3	23/5
E SYSTEMS	29/4	29/6
EAGLE PICH	0	30/4
EASTERN G	24/5	24/6
EMERSON EL	31/0	31/1
EMERSON RA	3/5	3/4
ETHYL CP	21/6	21/7
EOKON	44/5	44/7
FAM DOL ST	12/7	12/6
FED EXPRESS	43/4	44/0
FIELDCREST	20/5	20/5
FIN COR-AM	1/0	1/0
FLEETWOOD	23/6	24/0
FMC CORP	37/2	37/5
FORD MOTOR	53/1	53/4
FORT HONAR	55/0	54/7
FOXBORO CO	31/3	31/2
FRCHLD IND	10/4	10/4
FST BANK	23/1	23/2

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AMAMSON	15/3	15/3
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ALBERTSONS	35/0	35/0
ALBMA 8-16	0	32/2
ALCAN ALUM	32/0	32/0
AL CYANOID	51/2	51/3
AM ELET PA	28/2	28/3
AM NON PRO	73/7	74/0
AM NON PRO	79/5	79/7
AM STNARD	0	77/6
AM STORES	50/2	50/1
AM TEL-TEL	26/3	26/5
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BKAMERICA	13/5	13/5
BANK SEC	6/7	6/7
BOEING CO	58/6	59/0
BOISE CASC	45/5	45/7
BORDEN	52/3	52/4
BOUATIER	34/0	34/0
BR TELECOM	43/0	43/0
BRIGGS-STR	33/3	33/3
BRIST-MYER	39/7	40/2
BRUNSWICK	20/5	20/6
BURNDY CP	12/0	12/1
C 3 INC	11/2	11/3
CABOT CORP	38/2	38/4
CAESARS W	28/1	28/1
CA FREIGHT	22/3	22/2
CAS NAT GS	15/3	15/3
CAS-COKE	26/4	26/6
CATERPILL	66/4	66/6
CBI IND	30/5	30/6
CBS	160/2	160/4
CENTEL CP	45/2	45/2
CHAMP INTL	35/7	36/0
CHAMP SPA	12/2	12/3
CHARTER CO	3/6	3/7
CHASE MAN	29/4	29/6
CHENED CP	33/1	33/3
CHENIC BNC	29/7	30/1
CHRYSLER	47/1	47/1
CHUBB CORP	23/4	23/6
CHUR FR CH	6/0	6/0
CIGNA CORP	46/5	46/5
CIN MILACR	25/6	25/3
CIR CIT ST	33/7	33/7
CIRCLE K	14/6	14/7
CITICORP	24/3	24/6
CLARK EQUI	34/0	34/1

BUSINESS

US currency surges on jobs news

Fed intervenes to brake sharp rise of dollar

LONDON, July 8. (Reuters): The US central bank intervened in currency markets today to brake a sharp rise in the value of the dollar, dealers reported.

The dollar soared when the United States reported a sharp drop in its unemployment. Dealers expect US interest rates will rise — making dollar assets more attractive — to dampen the risk of inflation if a tight job market pushes wages up.

Highest
The Federal Reserve sold dollars as the US currency approached 1.84 West German marks, its highest since early October. After the intervention the dollar steadied at around 1.8350 marks and 133 yen.

Wall Street stocks, after an early dip, were little changed. Some traders worried that news that 346,000 Americans found jobs in June, well above forecasts of a 220,000 rise, signalled a tight job market with rising wages pushing up inflation.

The US unemployment rate fell to a 14-year low of 5.3 per cent from 5.6 per cent in May. Concern about inflation had been easing after US corn and wheat prices looked set to fall further after dropping the maximum permitted by the Chicago Board of Trade yesterday.

The price of gold fell today, to be fixed in London at \$438.40 an ounce, down \$2.50 from yesterday afternoon.

Gold is a favoured hedge against inflation.

Drought
Many investors, at least before the jobs data, had seemed less worried that the US drought would send food prices higher and add to inflationary pressures. Rain is forecast.

Also, oil prices eased today. They had gained about a dollar a barrel yesterday after a North Sea oil rig explosion and news that some senior OPEC officials would meet to discuss how to deal with the prevailing world glut.

But today, North Sea oil slipped below \$15 a barrel after being quoted as high as \$15.70 yesterday.

US Labour Secretary Ann Dore McLaughlin also said she saw no sign of inflation, despite the strong jobs numbers.

New York currency dealers reported the intervention against the dollar by the US Federal Reserve Board.

In recent days, West Germany's Bundesbank has been the only major central bank selling dollars in the open market to try to cap a month-old rally by the US currency — largely based on markets' more optimistic assessment of America's economy.

Watching
Dealers will be watching for clues as to whether the Fed is now deploying its full weight alongside the Bundesbank to tame the dollar, in line with repeated pledges by leading industrial nations to keep currency values broadly stable.

Wall Street stocks dipped initially on the jobs news, then recovered from the early bout of selling. Late in the New York morning the Dow Jones Industrial Average was little changed from yesterday's closing 2,122.69.

Lower
London's FTSE index of 100 blue chip shares rose, at one point up 22.6 points to an afternoon high of 1,878.1.

The Paris Bourse indicator slipped 0.01 per cent after France cut interest rates while West German stocks rose as the DAX 30-share index rose 8.93 points to 1,197.52.

Steady
Oil prices were steady after jumping sharply yesterday following an explosion which destroyed one of Britain's North Sea oil rigs and caused five others to be shut down.

The benchmark Middle East crude, from Dubai, was quoted at \$13.45 a barrel, up marginally from \$13.40 at New York's yesterday close.

Traders said the market was calm today and did not expect any further price rises as a result of the loss of North Sea oil production.

This news has already been included in the market (price) level, said one Japanese trading house trader.

Gold was worth around \$439.35 an ounce in late afternoon trading in Tokyo, unchanged from close of business in New York yesterday.

Rose
In other regional share markets, Australian stocks rose for the sixth straight session. The main index was up 12.6 points to 1,612.6.

Sydney brokers said local investors ignored the softer closes on Wall Street and the London Stock Market and bought quality industrial and mining stocks.

"The market still has some upside left in it," said Mike Crowley of ORD Minnet in Sydney.

The Hong Kong share market, however, was lower.

AMMAN, July 8. (Reuters): The official unemployment figure in Jordan has remained steady despite a regional recession, acting Labour Minister Khaled Al Haj Hassan said yesterday.

"The unemployment figure for 1988 stands at 40,000 out of a total local workforce of 470,000, the same as last year," he told a news conference.

This yields an unemployment rate of 8.5 per cent, well below some unofficial estimates.

Figures
Economist Fahed Al Fanek said the figures, based on the number of job-seekers registered at the Labour Ministry and Civil Service Commission, represented only half the true total.

"They do not include those who depend on themselves, those who are not looking for a government job or who would not accept the kind of job the government could find them," he said.

"The real unemployment rate cannot be less than 16 per cent and must be increasing since the labour force is growing at six per cent a year, while the economy has been growing at only two or three per cent a year," Fanek said.

Haj Hassan said 328,000 Jordanians were working overseas, representing more than 40 per cent of the national workforce.

Of these, 270,000 work in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Arab states.

He said about 3,000 Jordanian migrants returned home last year, while about the same number found jobs abroad.

Fanek said that before falling oil revenues sparked a regional recession, the Gulf countries alone used to absorb a third of new Jordanian job-seekers.

"They are no longer doing this, so the Jordanian labour market is on its own," Fanek said.

About half the local labour force works in the public sector, including the police and armed forces, he added.

Haj Hassan said the labour market was now better organised thanks to government measures to cut the number of work permits issued to foreigners and give priority to Jordanian job-seekers.

He said 80,000 foreigners now had permits to work in Jordan, mainly in agriculture, service and construction.

The total was down from 100,000 last year and 120,000 in 1986. Most are Egyptians, with substantial numbers also from Syria, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and the Philippines.

Swelled
Dinar liquidity swelled as banks unwound dollar positions, with overnight and tomorrow's funds offered at one per cent with no bids. Spot-neft was put at four, three per cent.

The Central Bank took one-week deposits at 4-3/4 and 4-1/2 per cent from six, five per cent interbank quotes on Wednesday.

One-monthly in the dollar but settled at six, 5-7/8 per cent from 6-1/2, 1-1/4 per cent on Wednesday.

Two through 12-month maturities were a uniform 6-1/2, six per cent, up to 3/8 point below Wednesday levels.

Meanwhile, in Bahrain, Saudi riyal deposits seeped in volatile trading on Thursday as operators continued to speculate against the riyal in a tight and nervous market ahead of an anticipated third Saudi government bond issue on Saturday.

Dealers said fixed periods initially jumped by around 3/8 point then slipped back 1/8 in response to a large injection of funds from the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA).

"SAMA is in a difficult situation because it has to bring deposit rates down before issuing the bonds," one dealer said.

"But they can't stop the speculation," he added.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP
SYDNEY, July 8. (Reuters): Share prices closed higher for the sixth day, pushed up by demand for quality industrial and mining stocks. The All Ordinaries index rose 12.6 to 1,612.6.

TOKYO: Broadly-based buying pushed up share prices as edginess about recent volatility in exchange markets eased. The Nikkei index rose 188.95, 0.68 per cent, to 27,917.08.

HONG KONG: Stock prices closed marginally lower on light institutional selling. The Hang Seng index fell 6.73 to 2,752.90.

SINGAPORE: Prices closed slightly higher on speculative buying and bargain hunting, helped by a rise in Tokyo. The Straits Times industrial index rose 8.43 to 1,087.85, according to Overseas Union Bank calculations.

BOMBAY: Prices recovered smartly on heavy buying by state-owned financial institutions after the market opened lower. Tata Steel rose 15.25 rupees to 791.5.

FRANKFURT: Prices ended an active bourse higher but off the best levels of the session, with profit-taking before the weekend partly offsetting underlying bullish sentiment. The Commerzbank index, set at mid-session, rose 12.8 to 1,507.3.

ZURICH: Prices closed slightly firmer in fairly active trading after a mixed early pattern. The All-Share Swiss index rose 5.5 to 892.6.

NEW YORK: Stocks were little changed in mid-morning trading. But blue chips were up slightly after recovering from an early selling bout prompted by a higher than expected employment gain in June. The Dow was up one at 2,126.

Involved
"Takeshita's main political rivals are in his own party and are all involved in the scandal. Takeshita has nothing to lose," prominent political critic Soichiro Tawara said in an interview.

"It's like cutting off a lizard's tail; it will just grow back," Fukuoaka said. "They are all denying they knew anything and blaming their secretaries. So they'll get new secretaries and apologise, and life will go on."

In 1974, Japan's biggest post-war scandal did not destroy the political career of former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka, who was forced out of the premiership and the LDP over questionable land dealings and was convicted in 1983 of accepting bribes from the Lockheed Corp.

Scheduled
The scandal is likely to throw the next Diet (parliament) session scheduled to discuss the LDP's tax plans into disarray as opposition politicians attack the party on moral and ethical grounds.

"People are going to be saying, 'we pay consumers taxes, we pay sales taxes, why should politicians get away with this?'" Fukuoaka said.

The Recruit-Cosmos affair is the latest of several financial quagmires to hit the LDP this year.

Six people have been indicted since May for arranging bribes offered by advertising agencies to gain public relations contracts with the prime minister's office.

Last month, five executives of a Tokyo electronics firm who

made large donations to both the LDP and Japan Socialist Party were arrested for evading income tax of \$11.5 million earned from illegal stock manipulations.

Despite the furor, Takeshita and Abe, Miyazawa and LDP policy chief Michio Watanabe, all prime contenders for Takeshita's job, are likely to emerge unscathed.

Japan's governing party rocked by financial scandal
"Their obtaining stocks before they go on the market is unfair and dirty," Ito told the Associated Press. "Although they broke no law, they abused their positions to line their pockets. Political funding and the stock market are sure to be examined now."

Under Japanese law, the stocks dealt were technically legal because firms can determine to whom they sell shares and at what price.

Made up
Japan's major newspapers quoted informed sources as saying the secretaries — politicians' top aides and confidants — made up to \$1 million from sales of the stocks shortly after they were offered to the public in 1986. The profits apparently were used for campaign funds and not for personal gain.

Fund-raising and gifts of money have long been the key to success in Japanese politics. Senior lawmakers routinely pass out envelopes stuffed with bills to their juniors to cultivate parliamentary votes and support.

In particular, stock market manipulation is a major revenue source for politicians and it is rarely challenged, according to Masayuki Fukuoaka, a professor of political science at Tokyo's Komazawa University.

"Money politics is so longstanding and deep-rooted in Japanese politics that it is considered a necessary evil and seen as all right as long as people aren't caught," Fukuoaka said.

Affair
The affair involves current or former private secretaries to Takeshita, Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, LDP Secretary-General Shintaro Abe, ex-Premier Yasuhiro Nakasone and at least four other ex-cabinet ministers.

The aides have been identified among 76 people who obtained stocks of Recruit-Cosmos Co., a real estate and leasing company, at discounts before the shares were issued publicly.

"This involves the most senior LDP officials, and there is going to be a major outcry from the Japanese people," said Shigeru Ito, a high-ranking official in the Japan Socialist Party, the number one opposition party.

Decline in dollar helps cut US labour costs
"Clearly there's a definite improvement in our competitiveness vis-a-vis our trading partners," said Allen Sinai, chief economist for the Boston consulting house. "But we still have a long way to go to restore the competitiveness we lost over the past decade."

The government data showed that labour costs, measured in American dollars, rose an average 3.3 per cent annually from 1979 through 1985 while falling 2.3 per cent in Japan, 1.8 per cent in Korea, 4.8 per cent in West Germany and 2.4 per cent in Great Britain.

Outpaced
Wage increases in the United States averaging 6.9 per cent annually in those years also outpaced the gains received by workers in all of the other countries when measured in dollars.

US manufacturers, however, held hourly wage and benefit increases last year to just 1.3 per cent, the lowest of any of the industrial powers, according to the government data.

Japan was close with wage and benefit increases averaging 1.4 per cent. But wages rose 4 per cent in West Germany and 4.5 per cent in Canada while soaring 8.2 per cent in Great Britain.

But the civilian unemployment in the United States now hovering in the range of 5-1/2 per cent, Sinai noted that wage increases have been escalating rapidly the past two months.

Quit
"That suggests that our labour costs are rising at the same time that the dollar has quit falling," Sinai said. "This year we will not repeat the experience of last year."

For one thing, he said, declines in the industrial sectors of Japan, Great Britain and West Germany have all bottomed out and they are beginning to enjoy the same rebound in manufacturing that the United States has experienced in the past year.

The Labour Department figures, in fact, showed that manufacturing growth last year was slower in the United States than in Canada, S. Korea, Italy and Great Britain.

Agreed
The group also agreed on a "comprehensive programme of multilateral co-operation" of European member states with Cuba, Mongolia and Vietnam.

According to the communiqué, the meeting stressed that co-ordination of national economic plans must be the main tool of implementation long-term programmes and a list of problems was agreed upon.

The meeting did not, however, concur on radical changes. The communiqué said, "improvement of the mechanism of co-operation must be carried out step by step as the internal and external conditions mature."

Reaffirmed
It said these countries "reaffirmed their earlier understanding on gradually creating conditions for mutual free movement of goods, services and other production factors, with the aim to create an integrated market in future, after preliminary study."

According to the official Romanian Agencepres news agency, Romanian Premier Constantin Dăscălescu, apparently expressing disapproval of calls to reform the organisation, said member countries should concentrate on increasing the supply

of energy, fuel and raw materials. No progress was apparently made on when and how to introduce a mutually convertible currency or make all Comecon currencies convertible toward each other and on dropping the principle of unanimity in all major decisions.

A protocol signed by the ten member countries was not made public. But the communiqué said that they approved the "concept of the international socialist division of labour for the years 1991-2005."

Counterpart
Comecon is the Soviet bloc's economic co-ordination and development agency. In some ways, it's a counterpart to the European Economic Community. Members are the Soviet Union, East Germany, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Mongolia, Vietnam and Cuba.

Only the three Third World members — Cuba, Mongolia and Vietnam — were promised credits and technical assistance to improve their economies.

The communiqué also suggested that no consensus could be reached on charting radical reforms as demanded by the Soviet Union, Hungary, Poland

and to a lesser extent by Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria.

East German Premier Willi Stoph, in a speech to the session, gave lukewarm approval to the idea of a future common market, but he indicated that his government remains opposed to Soviet-style restructuring of the economy.

The communiqué carried by the Czechoslovakian state news agency CTK listed Bulgaria, Hungary, Vietnam, East Germany, Cuba, Mongolia, Poland, the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia as member countries supporting the idea of a future united market.

It said these countries "reaffirmed their earlier understanding on gradually creating conditions for mutual free movement of goods, services and other production factors, with the aim to create an integrated market in future, after preliminary study."

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US grain reserves enough to prevent shortages

WASHINGTON, July 8. (AP): The United States' grain reserves are large enough to prevent major shortages for the rest of the year and keep consumer food prices in check despite the drought, an Agriculture Department official said on Wednesday.

"Consumers should not see skyrocketing prices," Ewen M. Wilson, assistant secretary of Agriculture for Economics, told a hearing by two House of Representatives Agriculture Subcommittees. But he added that there could be a squeeze in the supply of some crops.

Tight
"Diminished stocks of soybeans and oats will mean tight supplies if the drought persists," he said. He also said grazing conditions on June 1 were rated 68 per cent of ideal and that hay prices are up 2.2 per cent from last year.

On the positive side, Wilson reported that 65 per cent of the winter wheat crop, which amounts to three-quarters of all US wheat production, already has been harvested and that progress is "well ahead of normal."

In contrast, he said, "the spring wheat crop is in bad shape with almost two-thirds of the crop rated in poor to very poor condition due to the drought."

The United States started this year with stocks of 1.27 billion bushels of wheat, well above the average of the last decade, Wilson said. He said that amount plus winter wheat already in the bins from the current harvest add up to a 10-month supply.

Shipment
That supply, exceeding 2 billion bushels, includes wheat for domestic use and for shipment to overseas markets, Wilson said.

The greatest production loss is in durum wheat, which is used for pasta, he said. The condition of hard red spring wheat also is generally poor, but stocks equal to 80 per cent of annual use are available, he said.

Among food grains, Wilson said, corn is generally in fair condition and in 10 of the 17 major producing states, 25 per cent or more of the crop is rated poor or very poor. In six of the 11 major

sorghum-producing states, at least 25 per cent of sorghum acreage is rated poor or very poor.

There are no weekly reports on the condition of oats and barley, Wilson said. But he noted that more than half of the nation's barley and one-third of its oats come from the grain belt where the drought is worst.

Nonetheless, corn stocks on hand as of Sept 1 are projected to equal 50 per cent of annual use and sorghum stocks 90 per cent of annual use. Wilson said corn supply should be ample to prevent any serious shortage.

Wilson said the soybean crop is generally rated fair to poor. In 11 of the 19 major producing states, "anywhere from one-fourth to more than one-half of the crop is rated poor or worse," he said.

In contrast, the USDA official said, record soybean crops are being harvested in Argentina and Brazil this spring.

"Those crops will be marketed throughout this summer and fall at favourable prices for the South Americans," he said.

WASHINGTON, July 8. (AP): With the smallest wage increases of any industrial nation and help from a sinking dollar, US factories outperformed their foreign rivals last year in reducing labour costs and making their goods more competitive on world markets.

Measured in devalued American dollars, labour costs in the United States declined 1.5 per cent in 1987, compared with increases of 7.5 per cent in South Korea, 7.7 per cent in Canada, 13.5 per cent in Japan and 23.9 per cent in West Germany, the Labour Department said on Wednesday.

Outperformed
But even before the dramatic devaluation of the dollar against major European and Asian currencies, the United States outperformed all but Japan in keeping a lid on labour costs.

Measured by their own currency, the yen, Japanese manufacturers reduced their labour costs by 2.5 per cent. Excluding France, labour costs rose for nine other major industrial powers.

Clearly there's a definite improvement in our competitiveness vis-a-vis our trading partners," said Allen Sinai, chief economist for the Boston consulting house. "But we still have a long way to go to restore the competitiveness we lost over the past decade."

The government data showed that labour costs, measured in American dollars, rose an average 3.3 per cent annually from 1979 through 1985 while falling 2.3 per cent in Japan, 1.8 per cent in Korea, 4.8 per cent in West Germany and 2.4 per cent in Great Britain.

Wage increases
Wage increases in the United States averaging 6.9 per cent annually in those years also outpaced the gains received by workers in all of the other countries when measured in dollars.

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"That suggests that our labour costs are rising at the same time that the dollar has quit falling," Sinai said. "This year we will not repeat the experience of last year."

For one thing, he said, declines in the industrial sectors of Japan, Great Britain and West Germany have all bottomed out and they are beginning to enjoy the same rebound in manufacturing that the United States has experienced in the past year.

The Labour Department figures, in fact, showed that manufacturing growth last year was slower in the United States than in Canada, S. Korea, Italy and Great Britain.

Indonesia appeals to OPEC head to act against violators

JAKARTA, July 8. (Reuters): Indonesia has asked OPEC President Rihwanu Lukman to appeal to members who violate output quotas to stop driving down prices, the official Antara news agency reported yesterday.

Mines and Energy Minister Gjinanjar Kartasasmita wrote to Lukman on Monday asking him to "make a strong personal appeal to all ministers ... to adhere to the existing agreement on quotas and price, and refrain from taking unilateral action."

Antara said, quoting OPEC sources in Vienna.

Sunk
Oil prices last week sunk to 19-month lows from over-supply on world markets and over-production by some OPEC members.

Gjinanjar on Wednesday singled out the UAE as the biggest violator of an agreement last month which confirmed the output of OPEC members excluding Iran at 15.06 million barrels a day.

At least three members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries are pondering calling an emergency meeting to discuss the latest sharp drop in oil prices, the Kuwait News Agency KUNA said on Wednesday.

KUNA quoted high-level oil sources as saying Venezuela, Ecuador and Algeria were privately discussing holding an extraordinary meeting as soon as possible.

Gjinanjar is a member of OPEC's price monitoring committee, which also includes Venezuela, Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Nigeria.

"Over-production in the last quarter has increased the stock position of consumer countries significantly, which in turn has put pressure on prices," Gjinanjar wrote in his letter to Nigeria's Lukman.

Estimated
"Total OPEC production, including Iraq, is now estimated at over 18.5 million barrels per day, indicating an overproduction of the signatories to the quota agreement, of about 0.5 million barrels per day," Gjinanjar's letter said.

"The increasing volume of OPEC oil being sold at market-related prices and public statements of non-adherence to quotas by ministers ... has caused the market to expect a repetition of the 1986 situation."

Oil prices plummeted from about \$25 a barrel at the beginning of 1986 to below \$10 as OPEC members fought each other for market shares.

Spot prices for August delivery have fallen nearly four dollars below the group's \$18 benchmark prices.

Meanwhile, Venezuela has cut the price of its medium and heavy crude oil by an average of 65 to 70 US cents a barrel following last week's drop in spot oil prices to a 19-month-low on world markets.

An industry source said yesterday the Venezuelan price cut applied to about 450,000 barrels of the 1.55 million barrels of crude and refined products Venezuela exports daily.

It was the first Venezuelan price cut since April 21.

Venezuela is the third biggest supplier of oil to the United States and the fourth biggest producer in the OPEC.

Crude on world oil markets has fallen in recent weeks due to oversupply and overproduction by some OPEC members, according to traders and oil analysts.

Venezuelan Energy Minister Arturo Hernandez Grisanti said on Wednesday OPEC might need to take measures to stop

quota violations by its members to stabilise prices.

The Venezuelan price cut, effective on Tuesday, affects crudes of an API gravity of 25 or less, the industry source said. He said OPEC-set prices are for lighter crudes of at least 26 API.

API gravity is universally accepted scale adopted by the American Petroleum Institute expressing the specific gravity of oil. It serves as a rough measure of quality: the higher the API gravity, the richer the yield in premium refined products.

In Abu Dhabi, a newspaper objected yesterday to criticism of the UAE's OPEC quota violations by Indonesian Mines and Energy Minister Gjinanjar Kartasasmita.

"It is deplorable that the UAE's sacrifices are met with harm and false accusations as if alone should shoulder the responsibility of preserving OPEC's unity and stabilising output and prices," the Arabic daily Al-Itihad said in an editorial.

"It becomes stranger because OPEC's norms and traditions call for raising the issue of production and prices within the organisation, not outside it," it said.

Romania opposed to Comecon market

PRAGUE, July 8. (AP): Romania which opposes all Comecon and domestic reforms was the only country yesterday that refused to sign a statement calling for creation of an integrated market within the bloc.

The Romanian refusal became clear in a communiqué issued at the end of a three-day meeting of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (Comecon), from which most of the delegations left empty-handed.

Counterpart
Comecon is the Soviet bloc's economic co-ordination and development agency. In some ways, it's a counterpart to the European Economic Community. Members are the Soviet Union, East Germany, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Mongolia, Vietnam and Cuba.

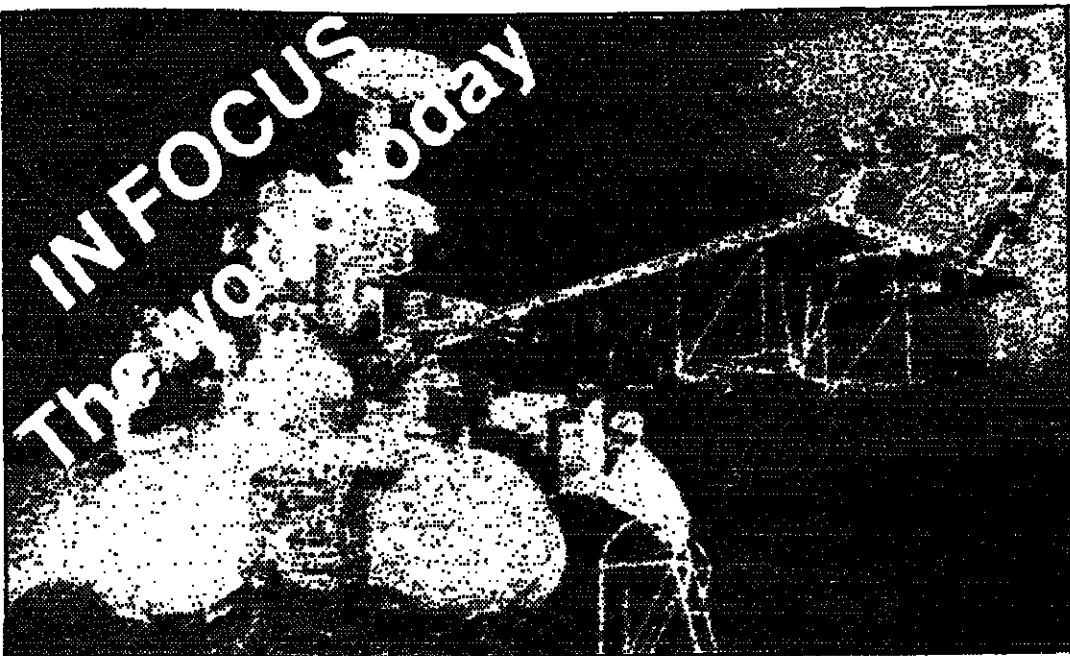
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The communiqué carried by the Czechoslovakian state news agency CTK listed Bulgaria, Hungary, Vietnam, East Germany,



IN FOCUS
The week today
A TECHNICIAN works on the Soviet Phobos probe before its launching. The probe, which was launched on Thursday, will orbit Mars and land on one of its two moons. (Reuter wirephoto)



A US embassy official in New Delhi receives from Indian school children a protest note addressed to US President Reagan. About 150 children expressed their grief over the US shooting down of an Iranian airliner over the Gulf. (Reuter wirephoto)



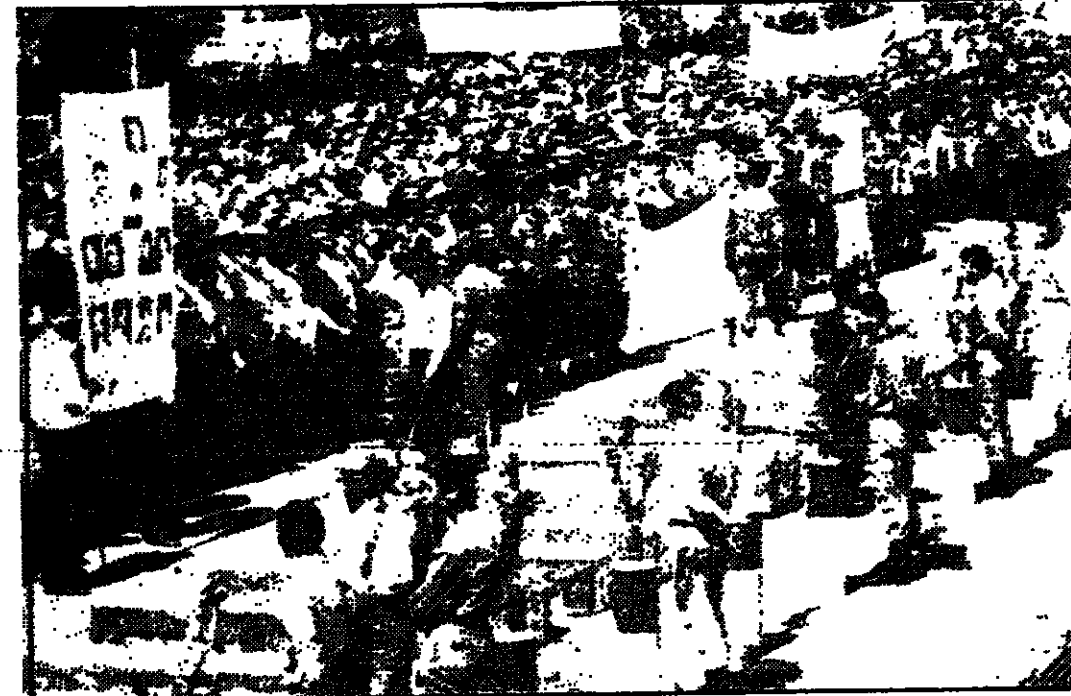
ADM. WILLIAM CROWE, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, left, gestures as he and Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev, Chief of the General Staff of the Soviet Union, observe an air power demonstration from the flight deck of the aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt on Thursday. Crowe invited Akhromeyev to visit the United States following the Moscow summit. (Reuter wirephoto)



A PALESTINIAN fighter loyal to Abu Musa walks among the debris-strewn streets of Bourj Al Barajneh. Abu Musa fighters defeated commandos loyal to Yasser Arafat on Thursday. (Reuter wirephoto)



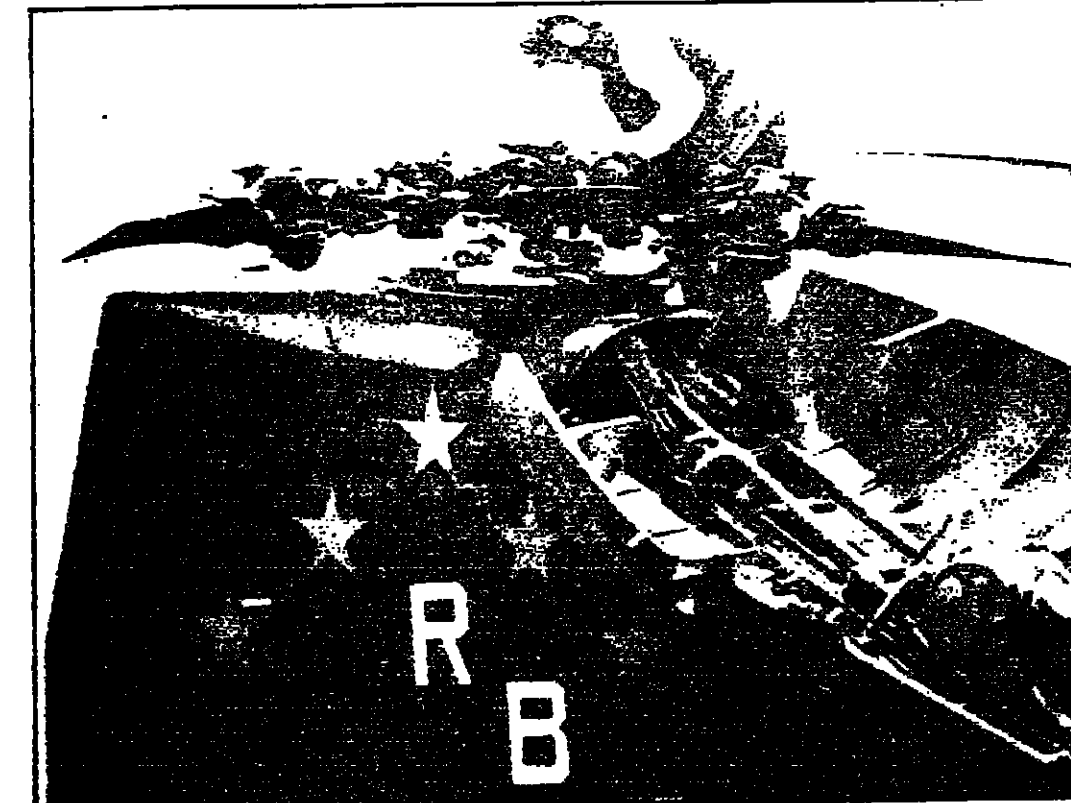
HANDICAPPED South Koreans in wheelchairs and on crutches charge waiting riot police in an effort to move their protest to Seoul City Hall. About 200 people took part in the protest, which criticised the government's welfare policies and Seoul's hosting of the Paralympic Games in October. (Reuter wirephoto)



IRANIAN mourners carrying banners and chanting 'Death to America' and 'Revenge, revenge,' gathered on Thursday in front of a line of coffins of passengers from the Iranian airliner shot down by a US warship in the Gulf. (Reuter wirephoto)



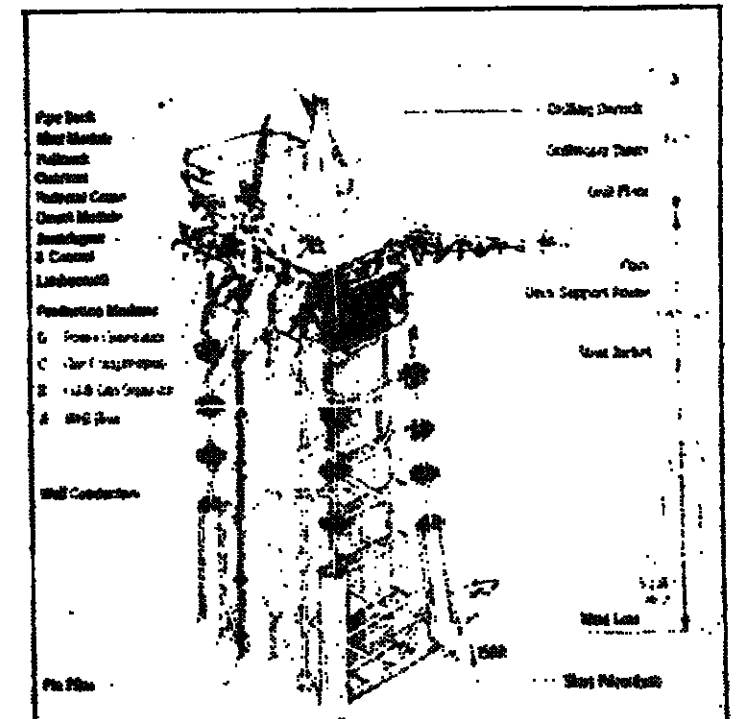
INDIAN President Ramaswami Venkataraman (centre) reviewing the honour guard on his arrival in Moscow after being greeted by Andrei Gromyko, President of the Supreme Soviet. (Reuter wirephoto)



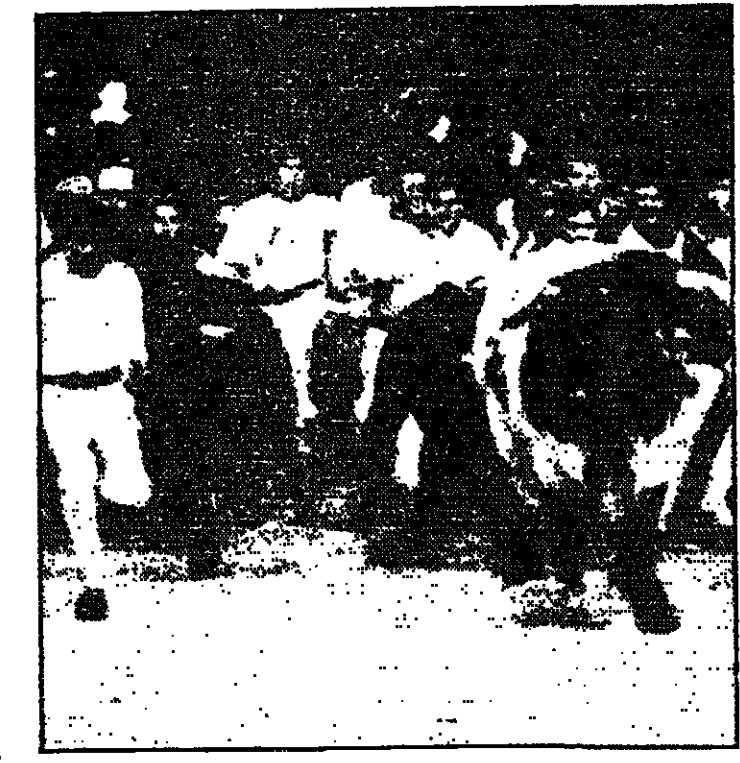
LORETTA A. KNOB from Delta, Colorado, checks the engine of a Sea Stallion helicopter aboard the US supply ship Spica in the Gulf. Knob is one of the only two women serving on a US warship in the Gulf. (Reuter wirephoto)



THE wife of one of 12 S. Koreans killed in an Iraqi air attack on an Iranian gas plant last week clings to her husband's coffin draped with the South Korean flag in Seoul. (Reuter wirephoto)



A DRAWING of the Piper Alpha oil rig in the North Sea. The rig exploded on Wednesday and more than 165 people are feared dead. Below: one of the survivors is hugged by his wife and daughter at their home in Aberdeen, Scotland. He was flown on Thursday from the scene of disaster. (Reuter wirephotos)



RUNNERS sprint ahead of fighting bulls as they enter the Pamplona bullring at the end of second running of the bulls during this year's San Fermin festival. (Reuter wirephoto)

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

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(AT6-43088-3)

KUWAIT City, Fahd Al Salem Street. Room for a Dawoodi Bohra bachelor or family. Tele. Mr. Saifuddin, 2410901.
(AT5-43072-3)

BNEID Al Qar, opp. Hala House, single room in a 2-bedroom flat with kitchen facilities including water and electricity for a small family or two bachelors. Tele. Bhatti, 2438011, ext. 289, 9am-5pm.
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(AT1-43089-3)

IN Mardan Hawalli; 2 bedroom flat, living and dining room with tele. and some household items. Rent KD150. Tele. Mr. Edward, 2428200 ext. 1509, 8 am - 1 pm, 5631471 after 6pm.
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SALMIYA near Indian/Pakistan School: flat, comprising 3 bedrooms, a hall and a saloon, fully furnished for sale. Tele. M. Mohammad, 5654719, 2-6pm.
(AT5-43073-3)

SOFA set, bedroom set, study tables, dining table, bookshelf, showcase, side cabinet, chest of drawers, exercise rowing boat and miscellaneous items. Tele. 5316934.
(AT6-43087-3)

INDESIT washing machine, KD25, household plants, baby cot, KD30, baby high chair, KD25, baby swing, KD10 and other baby items for quick sale. Tele. 5716794 after 2 pm.
(AT5-DJ-TM-3)

ABU HALIFA (sea-side). Fully furnished one bedroom CAC flat for immediate sale. Present rent KD80. Tele. 2480639, 9.30 am - 12.30 pm.
(AT1-43115-2)

STEREO radio/cassette-recorder, TV, video cabinet, showcase, bookshelf and 6 chairs for dining table. Tele. Qureshi, 5639172, 10am-4pm.
(AT1-43102-2)

NATIONAL video NV340, Kufuma bookshelf and show piece 2m x 2m, 6 door white cupboard, chest of drawers, baby cot and many kitchen appliances. Tele. 4891590.
(AT6-43086-3)

MINOLTA Maxum 9000 camera system, sell all or part of. Make offer, must sell. Tele. Nelson Hill, 4742000, ext. 256, after 3.30 pm.
(AT1-431001-3)

HOSTESS electric heated serving trolley, KD50, Corby electric trouser press KD30, child's car booster seat and harness KD8. Tele. 2431357, 7am-2pm.
(AT5-43069-3)

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(AT1-43096-3)

MERCEDES 450 SLC 1976 model in excellent condition. KD3,250. Tele. 2526876.
(AT5-43088-3)

MITSUBISHI Lancer F 1983, automatic, white with AC. In good condition. KD600. Tele. 5385094.
(AT5-43081-3)

MITSUBISHI Colt 1980, manual, in very good condition. KD250. Tele. 5716794 after 2 pm.
(AT5-DJ-TM-3)

MAZDA 626 GLX, Oct 1985, automatic with AC, sunroof, radio/cassette, white, 5-door hatchback, 58000 kms, in excellent condition. KD1450, ono., cash. Tele. Dr. Masud, 4873243, 4834179.
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HONDA Accord 82 model, metallic blue, automatic, with sunroof in good condition. KD700. Tele. 4575340, 1-6pm only.
(AT6-43092-2)

DATSUN Sunny 1983, manual, one owner since new. In excellent condition. KD600. Tele. 5716794 after 2 pm.
(AT5-DJ-TM-3)

MITSUBISHI Galant, 1983, automatic with AC, stereo, white, insured upto May '89. Owner leaving Kuwait. In excellent condition. KD600 ono. Cash. Tele. Parkash/Khalid, 4739888/4717877, 8 am - 1 pm, and 4 - 9 pm.
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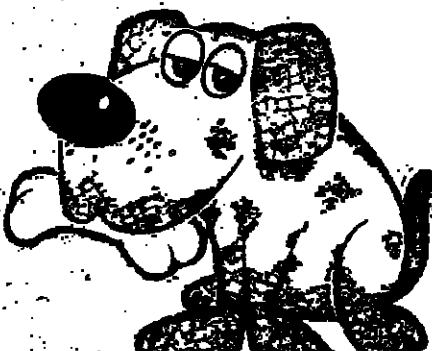
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SPORTS

Tigers maul Athletics to open gap at top

NEW YORK, July 8, (AP): For the Oakland Athletics, the heat is on.

Detroit hit five home runs and Jeff Robinson and Paul Gibson combined on a four-hitter as the Tigers beat the Athletics 8-1 last night in a battle of American League division leaders.

It was the Athletics' fourth straight loss, but they maintained their 3 1/2 game lead over Minnesota in the AL West as Boston beat the Twins 4-3. On June 5, the Athletics led the Twins by 10 games and now hold only a two-game edge in the loss column.

The Tigers, meanwhile, increased their lead to three games over New York in the East.

Chet Lemon, Larry Herndon and Mike Heath hit home runs in the second inning off Curt Young, 6-6, to get the Tigers going.

"It was the heat," Detroit manager Sparky Anderson said of the home runs. "The balls were just flying out of here."

Luis Salazar hit a three-run homer, his 10th, in the third and Ray Knight added a two-run shot later in the inning to make it 8-0.

Red Sox 4, Twins 3

With the score tied 2-2 in the sixth, Jim Rice scored the go-ahead run on Charlie Lea's sixth-inning wild pitch and Jody Reed followed with a suicide squeeze to drive in what proved to be the winning run as Boston beat Minnesota at the Metrodome. Dennis Boyd won only the second time in his last 10 starts.

Angels 7, Indians 1

Terry Clark made his Major League debut with five strong innings and Greg Minard pitched four scoreless innings in relief as visiting California beat Cleveland. Clark allowed one run and five hits for the victory. Wally Joyner drove in three runs with a two-run homer and an RBI single.

Orioles 6, Rangers 0

Oswaldo Peraza and Tom Niedenfuer combined on a seven-hitter as Baltimore beat Texas at Memorial Stadium. The Orioles backed the strong pitching with home runs by Mickey Tettleton, Ken Griffey, and Cal Ripken.

Royals 7, Brewers 3

Kansas City beat Milwaukee for the first time in eight games at Royals stadium as Mike MacFarlane hit a three-run homer and George Brett drove in two runs. Charlie Leibrandt, 5-10, shut out Milwaukee for five innings before yielding a run-scoring single to Jeffrey Leonard with two out in the sixth.

Reds 5, Phillies

The third time against Danny Jackson was no charm for the Philadelphia Phillies. The fourth time wasn't much better, either. The Phillies got a few more hits off the Cincinnati Reds' left-hander last night, the fourth time they faced him this season. They even managed to knock him out of the game — something they hadn't accomplished the first three times.

But Jackson prevailed again, going 6 1/3 innings for a 5-2 victory that left him with four wins in four starts this season against Philadelphia.

Jeff Treadway led off with his second homer, tying the game. Jackson then hit a grounder that third baseman Luis Aguayo mis-played for his second error of the game, as Jackson hustled to beat the throw. One out later, Jackson sprinted to third on Kal Daniels' singles.

Daniels stole second with Chris Sabo at bat. The rookie then worked good to a 3-0 count and got the go-ahead to swing.

Results

American League		
Baltimore	7	Cleveland 0
California	7	Indians 1
Detroit	8	Oakland 1
Boston	4	Minnesota 3
Kansas City	7	Milwaukee 3

National League

Pittsburgh	2	San Diego 0
Cincinnati	5	Philadelphia 2

Standings

American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Detroit	51	31	.622	—
New York	48	34	.585	3
Cleveland	45	40	.529	7 1/2
Boston	41	39	.513	9
Milwaukee	41	43	.488	11
Toronto	40	45	.471	12 1/2
Baltimore	26	58	.310	26

West Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Oakland	52	33	.612	—
Minnesota	47	35	.573	3 1/2

Minnesota	47	35	.575	6 1/2
Kansas City	44	40	.524	7 1/2
Texas	39	44	.470	12
Chicago	38	44	.463	12 1/2

Chicago	38	46	.452	13 1-2
California	33	51	.393	18 1-2
Seattle				
National League				
East Division				

JARRYD FIGHTS BACK TO OVERCOME PATE

Graf romps to victory over Provis



Graf overcomes fatigue and Provis

YOKOHAMA, Japan, July 8, (Reuters): After virtually no sleep in the last 36 hours, newly-crowned Wimbledon queen Steffi Graf romped to victory in her first round match at the \$200,000 Yokohama-Osaka Tennis Championship yesterday.

Emerging from a brief locker room nap, Graf beat Nicole Pietrangeli of Australia 6-2, 6-3 in just 42 minutes.

She also conquered fatigue from post-Wimbledon celebrations and an overnight flight from her native West Germany which set her down in Tokyo in mid-morning.

Admit "I have had only a few moments sleep in the last 36 hours," said Graf. "Although I must admit I had five minutes in the dressing room before going on court."

Provis broke Graf's service in the first game but quickly succumbed to the West German's armoury of teasing lobs, topspin forehands and rocket-powered service returns.

Graf unleashed 14 aces but hit more unforced errors than her

rival. Reflecting on her Wimbledon triumph, Graf said: "If I want to stay number one I will have to improve more. The US Open is what I want to win."

In the men's competition, Sweden's Anders Jarryd beat American David Pate 6-3, 6-4 in their first round game yesterday after recovering from 4-1 down in the second set.

At deuce point in the sixth game of that set Pate angled a drop shot about a court's width from Jarryd, but the Swede's legs fired like pistons to pull off a spectacular return.

Pate looked toward heaven in disbelief.

"I am very quick. I am quick and intensive," said Jarryd, ranked 14 in the world. "I play every point aggressively. I think those are the good points in my game."

Today, Eliot Teltscher of the United States lost the first set tie-break and struggled nearly two hours before beating Miloslav Mecir of Czechoslovakia 6-7 (4-7), 6-3, 6-4.

Mecir broke Teltscher in the first game while Teltscher broke

in the fourth game of the first set and the game went to the tie-breaker.

Mecir lead 4-0 in the tie-break and went on to take it.

Teltscher fired an ace in the first game to keep it then broke the fourth and eighth games while Mecir broke the third game of the second set at the Osaka Municipal Gymnasium in western Japan.

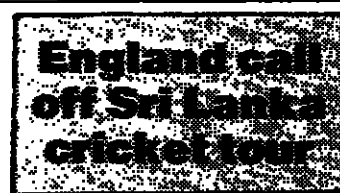
In the third set, Teltscher broke twice, in the first and seventh games, and Mecir did the same in the fourth game of the day's only singles match.

Graf meets Mary Joe Fernandez of the United States and Japan's Etsuko Inoue faces Bulgarian Manuela Maleeva in the women's semifinal matches tomorrow.

In the men's semifinals, Teltscher takes on compatriot Tim Mayotte and American Jimmy Connors, No. 1 seed here, plays Jarryd tomorrow.

The finals will be held on Sunday.

The men's and women's singles winners each take home \$30,000.



England call off Sri Lanka cricket team

LONDON, July 8, (Reuters): England called off a planned cricket tour of Sri Lanka yesterday because of continued unrest on the island.

The governing cricket boards of both countries agreed the short tour, which was to have preceded one to India in November, should not go ahead.

"We are aware of the security problems still existing in Sri Lanka. There would be an element of risk for our players going there and we don't feel that it could be prudently taken," English Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) secretary Tim Lamb said.

"Sri Lanka fully understand the position and accept that the political situation is still volatile."

Regret

A joint statement by the TCCB and the Sri Lankan Cricket Board said a decision could not be delayed any longer.

"The TCCB much regret that this tour cannot take place for the time being. In conjunction with the Sri Lankan board it will keep the matter under review with the aim of rescheduling the tour at the earliest possible opportunity."

"In the meantime, the TCCB looks forward to welcoming the Sri Lankan team to England later this month."

Other countries have taken similar decisions on touring Sri Lanka. New Zealand pulled out halfway through a tour in April 1987 when trouble escalated.

Australia twice called off proposed visits. They had planned to spend 18 days there last September in preparation for the World Cup and had also been due to tour three months ago.

ICC shelves vote on S.African links ban

LONDON, July 8, (Reuters): The International Cricket Conference (ICC) yesterday again shelved a vote on the controversial issue of players' links with South Africa, admitting their own rules were a "minefield."

But an apparently more conciliatory proposal from West Indies received substantial support, a top ICC official said at the end of the two-day annual meeting of the sports' governing body.

Issue

A special ICC meeting is to be held at Lord's on January 23 next year when the South African issue is expected to be voted on — along with plans for a massive overhaul of the ICC's constitution.

"The rules and regulations of the ICC are quite frankly a minefield and they do not stand up to present day cricket," said secretary John Stephenson after the meeting.

Confusion over rules governing major issues has now meant a West Indies-inspired move to penalise players who in future play or coach in South Africa has twice had to be deferred.

Originally, West Indies, backed by India, proposed a ban from Test cricket on offenders but this proposal was not discussed at the annual meeting.

However, the ICC did spend time on a seemingly softer approach from West Indies which says that if players with South African connections are

refused entry to any country a touring side must draft in replacements and the tour must go ahead.

Stephenson said there was a large measure of support for West Indies' new scheme.

An Australian amendment that countries should retain the right to decide whether to fulfil tour obligations was also discussed. Both proposals remain on the agenda for the January meeting.

Topics

The ICC's urgent need to give themselves some teeth in their decision making was clearly illustrated in their deliberations over several other topics.

They recognised the need to have the experimental 15 overs

per hour rules for Test matches written into the law book, but deferred action on the matter until next year.

They also put off a decision on the venue for the 1991 World Cup until the special meeting in January.

England's bid to impose a compulsory span of seven years before overseas players were qualified to represent their adopted countries is to go before a sub-committee. A call for a panel of neutral umpires will also go before a special sub-committee.

The ICC did manage one firm decision. Nepal was granted affiliate membership of the ICC, raising the prospect of cricket being played in the shadow of Mount Everest.

Worcestershire in strong position

Hick and Curtis hammer centuries

LONDON, July 8, (Reuters): Zimbabwean Graeme Hick and England hopeful Tim Curtis struck centuries which lifted Worcestershire to 285 for five in their Natwest Trophy second round tie against holders Nottinghamshire yesterday.

Curtis made 120 and future England Test prospect Hick 105. The gifted Hick, narrowly first in the race to 100, and Curtis added 186 for the second wicket in 36 overs.

Nottinghamshire were 74 for three off 20.3 overs when bad light halted play for the day.

Former England opener Chris Smith hit 99 not out and steered Hampshire to a controversial five-wicket win over Somerset. Smith, suffering from a groin strain, battled with the aid of a runner — but rival captain Peter Roebuck complained that three times the stand-in began to run before Smith had completed his shot.

There was a five-minute stoppage while Roebuck and rival



Hick

captain Mark Nicholas argued their respective cases with an umpire. Roebuck's objection was over-ruled by the official but he was assured a careful watch would be kept on the runner.

Zimbabwean Kevin Curran, who struck 58 not out in Gloucestershire's total of 273 for five on Wednesday, followed up with three Leicestershire wickets

in a 73-run triumph.

Jack Richards guided Surrey into the quarter-finals of the limited overs competition at the expense of Essex.

Paceman Neil Foster and John Lever reduced Surrey to 114 for seven before Richards struck a timely 30 not out for a three-wicket victory.

Results

At Leicester: Gloucestershire beat Leicestershire by 73 runs. Gloucestershire 273 for five innings closed. Leicestershire 200 in 47.2 overs (C. Lewis 53).

At Chelmsford: Surrey beat Essex by three wickets. Essex 141 in 45 overs. Surrey 142 for seven in 48.5 overs.

At Cardiff: Glamorgan beat Lancashire by 31 runs. Glamorgan 246 for five in 25 overs. Lancashire 215 in 57.5 overs (J. Derrick four for 57).

At Southampton: Hampshire beat Somerset by five wickets. Somerset 229 for seven in 25 overs. Hampshire 229 for five in 59 overs (C. Smith 99 not out).

At Headingly: Middlesex 225 for seven in 25 overs. Yorkshire 59 for four in 25 overs — rain stopped play. Match was to resume today.

At Trent Bridge: Worcestershire 285 for five in 50 overs (G. Hick 105, T. Curtis 120). G. Hick 105, Nottinghamshire 74 for three in 20.3 overs — bad light stopped play. Match was to resume today.

Crowe may not return to county cricket in England

WELLINGTON, July 8, (Reuters): New Zealand batsman Martin Crowe says he is not sure if he will ever return to county cricket in England.

The brilliant right-hander has cut short his season with Somerset because of a painful and persistent back injury.

Crowe told reporters on his return to New Zealand he had been advised to take the next four months off, and wanted to be fit for New Zealand's end of year tour of India.

"International cricket is obviously the priority at this stage," he said. "After that, who knows. But obviously there's a big question mark over my county career."

Decision

"At the moment my plan is just to get through the next New Zealand summer. Then a decision will have to be made on whether I could get through another six months of cricket in England," he said.

"The club is aware of the possibility that I might not be able to go back, and they've been very supportive."

The 25-year-old Test player said he had endured 18 months of non-stop cricket by the time he arrived in Somerset.

The back injury, a legacy from overwork at the bowling crease, deteriorated during the grind of the county circuit.

"I'm sort of used to the ache all the time now, and the

back isn't strong at all. It'll take a lot of work to build up the surrounding muscles so they'll be able to support the spine," he said.

Worst

"The county circuit wasn't doing it any good at all. I'd bat for a while, work up a sweat, cool down and my back would stiffen up. Then you'd hop in a car for four or five hours and it'd just get worse," he said.

"It got to the stage where I

had to think seriously about my future and just forget about this season. It's something I've really taken for granted for the last three or four years, but this season I had had enough."

"It's a major problem, and it's time something was done about it."

Crowe has been told that surgery would be difficult and potentially disastrous to his career.

"The doctors have said that

an operation is very risky, very tricky, and just out of the question," he said.

"It was a difficult decision to come home. I spent an agonising week discussing it with the doctors and finding the answer in my heart. I knew the best thing would be to come home."

Crowe joined Somerset in 1987 when the club dropped West Indian Viv Richards and Joel Garner, and Ian Botham resigned in protest.

McRae bids to retain 'A' seeding

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, July 8, (Reuters): With all the main contenders for this year's World Drivers Championship bypassing the event, British champion Jimmy McRae heads the field in the New Zealand motor rally which begins tomorrow.

The rally does not count towards the manufacturers championship, although still a round in the drivers series, and leaders Lancia are among those missing, along with their two top men in the drivers championship, Mike Biasion and Alex Fiori.

The four-day rally begins and ends here and covers nearly 2,000 km of tough winter terrain.

With the top drivers absent, the chance is there for the competitors from Austria, Australia, Britain and Japan as well as New Zealand to improve their world standings.

Seed

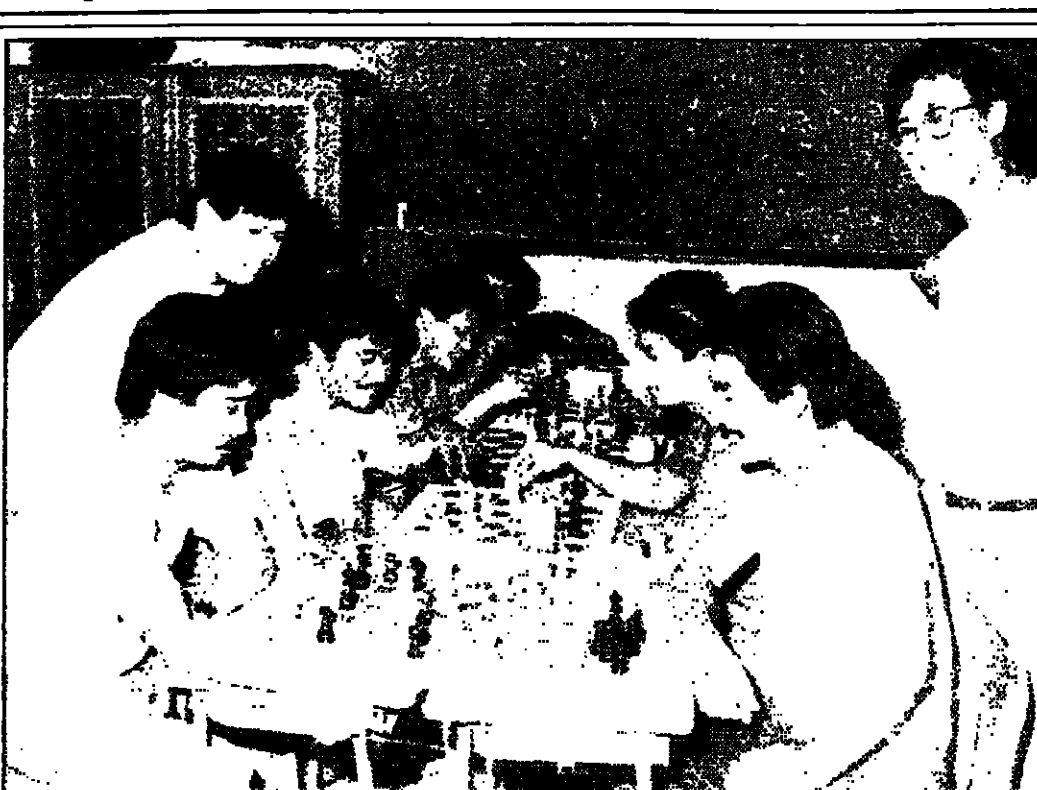
McRae said he would use the rally in a bid to retain his much-coveted world rally priority 'A' seeding.

Although he will be driving the lesser-powered Ford Sierra 4x4, compared with the Cosworth powered rear-wheel drive Sierra used in the Northern Hemisphere, McRae feels the winding roads will suit both his driving and the car.

"This rally has far fewer long straights where the extra power of the Cosworth would have been a definite advantage," he said. "But our testing during the week before the rally has convinced us that four-wheel power out of the corners and the bigger brakes of the 4x4 are ideal for this event."



The Filipino games continued at the Kofan stadium yesterday morning. Left: KPTC players go for the rebound in their basketball match. Right: chess players ponder over their moves.



(Photos by Amr Jadeed)

SPORTS

SENNA AND PROST OUTPACED

Alboreto fastest in GP practice

SILVERSTONE, England, July 8. (Reuters): Italian Michele Alboreto rewrote the script for the British Grand Prix today when he outpaced Ferrari team-mate Gerhard Berger and the hotly-favoured McLarens of Frenchman Alain Prost and Brazilian Ayrton Senna to take provisional pole position for Sunday's race.

Alboreto, due to be replaced at Ferrari next season by Briton Nigel Mansell, clocked one minute 10.669 seconds to snatch front position from Austrian Berger by under a tenth of a second in a first qualifying session curtailed by rain.

It was the first time this season that the Ferraris had enjoyed joint supremacy over the all-conquering McLarens in either practice or a race.

Position

Berger was second quickest after holding the leading position through most of the session, ahead of Senna and Prost.

Brazilian Mauricio Gugelmin, driving a March, was fifth quickest and fastest of the normally-aspirated contenders. Briton Derek Warwick in an Arrows was sixth.

The Ferraris dominated the practice which was effectively ended early when rain swept across the circuit after 45 minutes of the one-hour session.

It was a bad day for the

Williams team, with Mansell slightly injuring his knee in a high speed spin and Italian team-mate Riccardo Patrese failing to clock a flying lap and finishing out of the provisional grid positions.

After the official announcement during the week of Mansell's move to Ferrari, it had been expected that the Briton, who won last year's race in thrilling style, would shine in qualifying and Alboreto would struggle to keep pace with his rivals.

Instead it was Mansell who was left trailing and with a jarred knee to add to his problems following a spin on only his third lap.

"We have a major problem which has arisen today," he said afterwards. "And it is going to get worse over the next two races before it gets better."

"It cannot be fixed overnight and we are definitely struggling. But we have not given up trying. I have bumped my leg on the same place in the last two races—there is not fat and the knee is just skin and bone."

Team boss Frank Williams said: "We had problems with the reactive ride suspension. Its performance as a unit is not consistent from lap to lap and we are working on the problem."

Mansell was not the only driver to spin off. Minardi's Italian Pierluigi Martini went off at club corner where he hit a barrier. He was unhurt and

walked back to the pits.

While Williams struggled with their unpredictable suspension, the March team—powered by the same normally—aspirated engines—enjoyed a successful day, with Gugelmin fifth and Italian Ivan Capelli eighth on the provisional grid.

Gugelmin said the car was the best he had ever driven but lacked the power to go any quicker.

The McLaren team said they had experienced difficulties with their aerodynamics during the windy session. Senna said: "My biggest problem was too much understeer. It has been a hard day and the rain did not help."

Times

Times after today's first official qualifying session:

1. Michele Alboreto (Italy) Ferrari one minute 10.669 seconds (average speed 243.407 kph); 2. Gerhard Berger (Austria) Ferrari 1:10.746; 3. Ayrton Senna (Brazil) McLaren 1:11.550; 4. Mauricio Gugelmin (Brazil) March 1:11.786; 5. Derek Warwick (Britain) Arrows 1:12.843; 6. Thierry Boutsen (Belgium) Benetton 1:12.960; 7. Ivan Capelli (Italy) March 1:13.030; 8. Nelson Piquet (Brazil) Lotus 1:13.166; 9. Satoru Nakajima (Japan) Lotus 1:13.197; 10. Alessandro Nannini (Italy) Benetton 1:13.400.



Mansell uses a scooter to give his two children a ride around the Silverstone racecourse. (Reuters wirephoto)

Spurs pay £2m for Gascoigne

LONDON, July 8. (Reuters): English First Division side Tottenham completed the signing of Newcastle midfielder Paul Gascoigne yesterday for a British transfer record of £2 million (\$3.44 million).

The England under-21 international, who was also being chased by Manchester United, signed a five-year contract with the north London club.

The sum bettered the previous highest British transfer fee of £1.9 million (\$3.27 million) also paid to Newcastle when Liverpool signed their England striker Peter Beardsley last July.

Ceremony

Tottenham manager Terry Venables said at the signing ceremony at the club's White Hart Lane home: "We've been working on this for a long time and it's great to know it's all finished. We've had to fight off stiff opposition from other top clubs and that, in itself is a triumph."

Gascoigne said: "It is great to have things sorted out and I'm really looking forward to the season starting. It's fantastic to sign for Spurs and I'm determined to do well here."

Only three British players have cost more than Gascoigne and Venables was responsible for two of those.

He was in charge at Barcelona when the Spanish giants paid £2.3 million (\$3.96 million) to Manchester United for Mark Hughes and £2.7 million (\$4.64 million) to Everton for England striker Gary Lineker, both in 1986.

But Welsh international Ian Rush remains the most expensive Briton, Juventus having paid Liverpool £3.2 million (\$5.5 million) for his services two years ago.



Gascoigne: signed for British record fee.

The world's most expensive player is Dutchman Ruud Gullit. He cost Italian champions AC Milan \$8.5 million last year.

Gascoigne is Venables' second big money signing at Tottenham in recent weeks. He splashed out another £1.5 million (\$2.38 million) for Manchester City's striker Paul Stewart—another England under-21 player—and his spending since taking over at the London club late last year is almost £5 million (\$8.6 million).

He has recouped some of that money with the sale of Clive Allen to France's Bordeaux for £1 million (\$1.72 million).

Arriving

Venables, bidding to lead Tottenham to their first League championship since 1961, said of Gascoigne and Stewart: "They are arriving at the right time for our pre-season build-up and both are young players with long and exciting futures in front of them."

"They are both winners and I'm confident Spurs supporters will quickly take to them."

Gascoigne said: "I am ambitious and will be giving 100 per cent to help bring success to White Hart Lane."

Brazil defeat Australia

MELBOURNE, July 8. (Reuters): Brazil ended an Australian dream when they beat the home side 1-0 on a mud heap of a pitch in the biennial Gold Cup soccer tournament yesterday.

Australia disputed the goal, which was scored by striker Romario in the 31st minute, claiming it was offside.

"Our dream to beat Brazil is over but we performed at the highest quality ever seen from an Australian team," said coach Frank Ark.

The Australians more than matched their famous opponents who have brought to the four-team tournament the team for the Olympic finals which is expected to form the nucleus of the side to contest the 1990 World Cup.

Four-team tourney back again

LONDON, July 8. (Reuters): A four-team international soccer tournament, cancelled by the English Football Association (FA) last month over fears of crowd trouble, has been cleared to go ahead at Wembley next month as originally planned.

The FA's change of heart means English fans will have a chance to watch Ruud Gullit, Frank Rijkaard and Marco van Basten—all members of the Netherlands' European Championship winning team—playing with their Italian club side AC Milan in the August 13-14 tournament.

The Italian champions will face West Germany's Bayern Munich and English First Division teams Arsenal and Tottenham.

Bahrain hold Jordan to goalless draw

AMMAN, July 8. (Reuters): The fifth Arab Football Championships opened today in Amman with a goalless draw between Bahrain and Jordan watched by a crowd of 14,000.

Flag-waving footballers from 10 Arab countries paraded before Jordan's King Hussein and Arab Football Federation chairman Faisal bin Fahd of Saudi Arabia at the opening ceremony at the Hussein International Stadium.

Qualifiers Egypt, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia and Lebanon join defending champions Iraq in Group One. Jordan, as host nation, heads Group Two with Kuwait, Bahrain, Syria and Algeria.

Syria and Algeria were also playing late in the evening today.

"I think the strongest contenders are the Iraqis, Egyptians and Tunisians," said Mohammed Abdul Qader, secretary-general of the Jordanian Football Federation. "But Jordan and Syria will also put in a strong challenge."

Provoked

Egypt, readmitted to the Arab Football Federation last year after an eight-year suspension provoked by Cairo's 1979 peace treaty with Israel, is competing for the first time.

"The Egyptians are very keen to recoup what they consider their rightful position as the leading Arab soccer nation," said local sportswriter Samir Jankat.

Despite five hours of live television coverage, there was a full house at the 25,000-seat stadium for the opening ceremony and today's two games.

Television coverage of all the games in the 12-day event will be beamed around the Arab world, the organisers said.

Yates wins 6th stage of Tour



Yates races around a corner. (Reuters wirephoto)

WASQUEHAL, France, July 8. (Agencies): Sean Yates of Britain won the sixth stage of the Tour de France cycle race, a 52-km individual time trial from Lievin to Wasquehal, in a time of one hour three minutes 22 seconds today.

Roberto Visentini of Italy was second and Tony Rominger of Switzerland was third.

Jelle Nijdam of the Netherlands took over the race leader's yellow jersey. Nijdam performed well yesterday by winning the fifth stage. Today he finished among the leaders.

Nijdam, a 25-year-old member of the Superconfex team, came across the finish line eight seconds ahead of Italian Massimo Ghirotti yesterday.

Sean Kelly of Ireland, this year's Tour of Spain winner, was in third place. He was part of a group that broke away from the pack in the middle of the race on the fifth stage yesterday.

However Kelly and Frenchmen Charly Mottet and Jean-Francois Bernard were gradually reeled in by the pack after being more than 1 minute, 20 seconds ahead about 30 kilometres (19 miles) from the end.

Close call for New Zealanders

SAN DIEGO, July 8. (Reuters): An attempt at spying on the America's Cup defenders nearly ended in disaster when a US tender stopped just short of smashing into a New Zealand speedboat, New Zealand team members admitted yesterday.

Officials for both sides acknowledged the incident, which took place on Wednesday off San Diego.

"The 60-foot (18.3m) American tender came within inches of the Kiwis' 25-foot (7.7m) chase boat as the New Zealand campaign mounted its first at-sea response to American spying on the big K-boats," said a release issued by the New Zealand camp yesterday.

American and Iranian soldiers compete in wrestling event

PALERMO, Italy, July 8. (AP): Iranian and American soldiers are squaring off this week in an international wrestling championships in southern Italy, authorities reported Wednesday.

The American and Iranian wrestlers have not yet met in competition but have been friendly and eaten together, said an Italian Navy warrant officer, Emilio Giannini.

Most squads thought the Iranians planned to boycott the games when they did not arrive Tuesday for the opening ceremony.

The day before, Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini called for

"full-fledged war" after a US Navy cruiser shot down an Iranian plane carrying 290 people.

However, the team arrived late Tuesday, and when the Iranian flag was raised at the start of Wednesday's competition, teams from the 10 other countries burst into prolonged applause.

Due to their late arrival, the Iranian soldiers were unable to compete in freestyle wrestling, in which the US squad won three gold medals. They will participate in the Greco-Roman style portion, which was to begin this evening.

Couples takes one-shot lead in Scottish Open



McNulty: misses the cut

GLENEAGLES, Scotland, July 8. (Reuters): American Fred Couples led late-finishing Australian Mike Harwood by one shot at the halfway point of the Scottish Open golf championship yesterday.

Couples' three-under-par 68 gave him a halfway total of 132, 10-under-par and one better than Harwood, who birdied three of the last five holes for a 65 and snatched second place.

Shared

Harwood surged ahead of a trio comprising Spain's Jose Rivero, Peter Fowler of Australia and Briton Stephen Bennett.

Rivero, who shared the first round lead with Couples, battled through persistent afternoon rain for a 70 Fowler had a day's best 63 in the better morning weather while Bennett managed a 66.

The halfway cut for the third round fell at 143, one over par, and claimed two notable scalps. European tour money leader Mark McNulty of Zimbabwe

and American Ben Crenshaw.

McNulty, still angry after his opening round required 5-1/4 hours to complete, was probably thankful to be two shots away after a 75 during which he ignominiously missed a putt of one inch.

"It was at the 12th hole. I missed from three feet and then took a backhand swipe to hole it and the club never reached the ball," he explained. "This is no big deal to me. I probably shouldn't have played this week."

Crenshaw, the 1984 US Masters champion who is sixth on the American money list for the year, came in with his second successive 73.

Roger Chapman of Britain was on six under while a group on five under included US Masters champion Sandy Lyle of Britain, who beat Couples in a playoff for the Phoenix Open title this year.

"Sandy's been killing us over these years," Couples said of the winner of three US Tour events in 1988. "I'd sure love to have another crack at him."

Couples was level with the second-placed trio—who had all finished their rounds—with five holes to play. Then he birdied the 14th with a 10-foot putt and collected another at the 18th, a par five which he reached in two and two-putted.

He said later he played all day with a headache. "I think it was all the rain, holding the umbrella and putting it down. It's tough keeping the clubs dry and playing in weather as bad as this."

"I don't think I threw any shots away today. If I can continue to play as well off the tee, I'll have a chance to win," he said.

Rivero, winner of the Monte Carlo open last week, said the rain stopped him from returning a better score.

Fowler had little of the bad weather to contend with and took advantage with nine birdies marred only by a bogey at the 17th.

It was his best round of the year and came just a month after he missed three successive half-way cuts.



Norman: opts out of British Open

Wrist injury threatened career, says Norman

SYDNEY, July 8. (Reuters): World number one Greg Norman said yesterday he would have threatened his whole career if he had ignored an old wrist injury and played in next week's British Open golf championship.

"I've been brooding over it for 48 hours and, no kidding, it's the hardest decision I've ever had to make," Sydney newspapers quoted the Australian golfer as saying.

Missing

"My heart wanted to play, but my body said 'no'. In the end it came down to deciding between missing one major championship or jeopardising my entire golf

We respect FIFA decision: Sheikh Fahd

AMMAN, July 8. (KUNA): The president of the Kuwait Football Association (KFA) and also the Asian Olympic Council, Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed Al Sabah, said that KFA respects the decision by the International Football Federation to fine KFA over an allegation of bribery against a member of the association.

"We respect the decision because we belong to FIFA," said Sheikh Fahd in an interview with KUNA. But he added that he "regrets" that the case was "unsurprisingly fabricated by certain parties."

Asked to shed light on the case, he said that a KFA member, assigned to accompany a group of foreign referees in Kuwait, handed each referee \$1,000 upon their request to purchase video recorders.

"The escort was not required to give them the money," Sheikh Fahd said.

However, he added, the escort handed them the money as a "goodwill gesture" and not as bribes, since no additional games were to be played in Kuwait at the time.

"FIFA made the decision to only fine Kuwait 25,000 Swiss francs because it did not find KFA directly responsible for this mistake. If FIFA had been convinced that this was a bribe, it would have taken a more severe action like suspension of the membership of KFA," the Kuwaiti sports official argued.

Sheikh Fahd is leading his country's delegation to the fifth Arab Soccer Cup which began here today. He said that Kuwait was interested in seeing the tournament end with an "excellent performance" by the Arab teams.

"Kuwait is participating in the tournament because it wants to provide experience to its players and is not seeking to win the cup," the Kuwaiti official indicated.

"We are not looking forward to winning the championship as much as we are interested in gaining more experience and enhancing the professional skills of our young players," he added.

Mystery illness

LONDON, July 8. (Reuters): West Indies opener Gordon Greenidge was receiving treatment in a Manchester Hospital yesterday after being admitted with a mystery illness.

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